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24 MARCH 1987

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BRITISH ENVOY PREDICTS MORE AID FOR CARIBBEAN NATIONS

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 6 Feb 87 p 1

[Article by Sandra Baptiste]

[Text]

A very modest increase in British aid to Eastern Caribbean countries is likely this year, British High Commissioner Kevin Burns said.

Britain allocated 9.1 million pounds sterling in 1986 to the six independent Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) countries to which Mr. Burns is accredited.

Barbados received just 200 000 pounds in technical cooperation as it is ineligible for British capital aid because of its relatively high per capita income of US\$4 400.

Mr. Burns described the island's ineligibility as sad.

"It's sad and perhaps in a perfect world there would be some intermediate dispensation for countries like Barbados which uses aid well and maybe actually does need a bit," the British envoy said in an interview with Cana.

Dominica which received the largest aid slice of 2.1 million pounds last year, recently completed a five million pound loan agreement with the U.K.

(Dominica's) Prime Minister (Eugenia) Charles is very efficient in getting aid spent. She doesn't spend a lot of time arguing with donors," the British High Commissioner said.

On the other hand, delays have been experienced in getting projects off the ground in Antigua and Barbuda and in drawing down its 10 million pound independence "gift," partly because of its default over a loan repayment.

Mr. Burns said Britain was "very meticulous" in approving the way its foreign aid is spent and this can sometimes involve lengthy procedures to ensure project viability.

Mr. Burns said there was room for improvement in project planning in some of the islands, which he declined to identify.

He said Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean stood a much better chance of attracting British investment if they sign investment promotion and protection agreements with London."

Signed treaties

Britain has to date signed treaties with St. Lucia, Belize, Jamaica and Dominica, has almost completed one with Antigua and Barbuda and is negotiating with Grenada and the Bahamas.

Mr. Burns said an investment seminar for the Caribbean is being planned for this year and it is also hoped that Caribbean exporters will visit Britain to look at prospects for enhancing trade.

The envoy said he is impressed with the work of the Barbados-based Regional Police Training Centre and is hoping the British Government would inject more funds into the institution.

The British Government provided 150 000 pounds annually over the last two or three years to the centre, in addition to technical assistance.

Mr. Burns said police training was one of the "potential growth areas" in Britain's aid programme as the region sought to strengthening security and fight the drug trade.

Mr. Burns said another major area of continuing British assistance is the upgrading of the Coast Guard services in the various islands.

He also pointed to British contributions to the Caribbean Development Bank as evidence of his country's help to the area. (CANA)

INTRA-CARICOM TRADE SHOWS 13 PERCENT DECLINE IN 1986

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 18 Feb 87 p 7

[Text]

BRIDGETOWN, Feb 17, CANA

Trading among Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member states contracted by 13 percent for the first nine months of 1986, compared with a 3.5 percent overall decline for 1985, a senior CARICOM official said today.

It is the sharpest decline in intra-CARICOM trade reported since the 10.3 percent drop in 1984.

For the period January to September 1986, trading among the 12 Caribbean Common Market states amounted to EC383.7 million dollars, compared with EC442.9 mil-

lion dollars for a similar period the year before (1 EC dol : 37 cents US).

Director of The Economics and Industry Division of the CARICOM Secretariat, Byron Blake, told CANA the increased rate of decline was largely due to a contraction in Trinidad and Tobago's imports from CARICOM.

He said after September last year, there was some improvement in the intra-regional trading figures, as Port of Spain began freeing up its import licensing system and allocated foreign exchange for CARICOM goods.

Blake said however that the timing of the Trinidad and Tobago relaxation, was not sufficient to register a marked improvement in intra-regional trade, as manufacturers did not have enough time to import raw materials and complete orders by year-end.

The CARICOM official said the region's trade ministers, who met last week, seemed satisfied with the recent pledge by the new Trinidad and Tobago administration to review its 12 percent stamp duty on CARICOM imports, with a view to removing it by mid-year and to use licensing purely for monitoring purposes.

"I think the ministers are now cautiously optimistic about intra-regional trade. The assurances by the Trinidad and Tobago minister seem to have satisfied a lot of people. Any improvement in trade involves Trinidad and Tobago to a large extent," Blake said.

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CS01 3298/144

UNESCO GRANT TO AID EXPANSION OF CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY

FL240410 Bridgetown CANA in English 2127 GMT 21 Feb 87

[Text] Kingston, 21 Feb (CANA)--The Caribbean News Agency (CANA) today announced plans for further expansion under a half a million dollars (U.S.) grant by the International Programme for Development of Communication (IPDC), a UNESCO agency.

This is the second grant to CANA funnelled through UNESCO by West Germany. The first assisted the agency in computerising its operations, acquiring its own headquarters building and establishing a radio service.

According to a statement after a CANA board meeting here, the 10-year-old news agency is investigating the possibility of launching a high-level financial and economic publication for the Caribbean. Preliminary investigations have commenced and will be continued through 1987, said Oliver Clarke, chairman of CANA's Board of Directors.

The expansion project also envisages the development of more regional radio programmes to meet a perceived need for an increased amount of indigenous material.

Some upgrading of the agency's headquarters in Barbados, including its radio production studio, was anticipated, the board said.

Clarke said that CANA's daily radio magazine programme "Caribbean Today" had made a significant impact and that the agency would be looking at this and audio packages outside the Caribbean.

Another possible new project was the establishment of a regional data base which was now being investigated, Clarke said.

The agency is proving its value as an instrument of information and, I hope, integration, said Clarke, who is also chairman of the GLEANER Newspaper Company here.

These projects, if viable, will further strengthen CANA in carrying out a vital function for our region, he added.

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CSO: 3298/144

AIRPORT CONTROVERSY REMAINS DIVISIVE IN ALP, GOVERNMENT

Government Corrective Steps

St Johns HERALD in English 6 Feb 87 p 1

[Text]

The Antigua and Barbuda Government has taken a number of steps to get behind it the controversy surrounding the Rehabilitation of the Airport Runway.

The Government has announced that it has requested that the French contracting firms of Building Finishings Systems S.A., Chantiers Modernes, and Moter, who carried out the rehabilitation work on the Runway, to testify before the Sir Archibald Nedd investigation. The French firm of international engineers, Guillerman, Guillerman and Duffour, which supervised the work of the engineers is

to return also to testify before the investigation.

The expert from the U.S. Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) Mr. Stephenson, and the Intervention Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) expert have also been asked to return to St. John's to testify.

Government also took a further step in inviting its French officials of Credit Lyonnaise and Barclays Bank S.A., who participated in the \$US11.1 million loan negotiations to appear before the investigation to give evidence. These officials, it was announced, are expected to arrive in Antigua shortly.

On another front, the government has taken issue with the Outlet Newspaper accusing it of attempting to mislead and confuse the

minds of nationals in the paper's front page article of last Friday entitled "Experts confirm US\$11.1 million rip-off."

A Government statement said the writer of the article claimed to be quoting from a report prepared by the F.A.A. experts but it only extracted enough information to create confusion on the airport issue and mistrust by the people in government.

Meanwhile, recognising that its Public relations department has been ineffective over the past year, the government has sounded out Mr. Colin Sampson, General Manager of Antigua Lottery Corporation, to help re-organise and strengthen the Public Information Division. Mr. Sampson is expected to be formally appointed shortly.

Harris' Disclosures

St Johns OUTLET in English 6 Feb 87 pp 1, 2, 10

[Text]

REUBEN HARRIS Minister of Education, in an unprecedented move, has exposed the shenanigans with US\$11 million dollar loan to re-surface the V.C. Bird airport in a 45 PAGE DOCUMENT.

This unusual move, where a Cabinet Minister feels compelled to expose his own government, was brought about by Prime Minister V.C. Bird's refusal to act in the face of blatant wrong-doing. PM Bird himself said that Ministers of Government were free, but at the peril of their Cabinet position, to tell all they knew about the airport deal to the Sir Archibald Nedd investigation.

And Harris has done just that. He has taken up the gauntlet thrown down by PM V.C. Bird at the Cabinet meeting which V.C. Bird himself described as the "Blow-up" Cabinet Meeting and has told all.

Harris' stunning move in presenting a forty five page (it is numbered 46 pages, but a mistake was made in the numbering of the pages and no page is marked page 18) to the Investigation makes it clear that the expensive Investigation put on by the Bird government is a waste of time and money, since all that is in the **DOCUMENTARY BRIEF TO THE SIR ARCHIBALD NEDD INVESTIGATION INTO THE V.C. BIRD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, BY Hon Reuben Harris, 26 January 1987**, is known by every Cabinet Minister and the Prime Minister himself. Why then waste the money on the Investigation! Is the Investigation a cover-up? Harris has put paid to that with the 45 page document, a firm proof of his courage to stand up to PM V.C. Bird and Minister Vere Bird the very centre of the V.C. Bird Airport scandal who issued vicious threats against him at the Blow-up Cabinet Meeting on Wednesday 14 January, 1987.

SIXES ARE NINES

In his Documentary Brief submitted to the Investigator Sir Archibald Nedd, Harris not only lays bare Minister Vere Bird, exposing his involvement in the upside-down use and abuse of public office and public funds. Harris shows too, that PM Bird's defense of Minister Vere Bird, that the Consultant Engineer,

Mr Al Wason, approved the project, is unfounded and baseless. In Harris' own words **"Sixes are Nines Now"**.

Angry about the Harris Documentary Brief exposing the Rip-off, Vere Bird himself made copies of the Harris Document urging his supporters to demand Harris' resignation. Outlet intercepted one such and made a photo-copy.

Harris with careful method began at the beginning with the first irregularity. Says Harris, about the V.C. Bird International Airport resurfacing project, at page 1 paragraph 2 "Such rehabilitation and construction work is **NORMALLY** a function of the Ministry of Public Works. However, it was an obligation which **SURPRISINGLY** turned on the Ministry of Public Utilities".

Surprisingly eh? There is more in the mortar than in the pestle. Clearly Harris is showing that forcing the Minister of Public Works out of the airport re-surfacing project, a function normally carried out by that Ministry, there was the intention, from the beginning, to play fast and loose with public funds.

Then Harris in his documentary points to another glaring irregularity, that is, how the unknown French Company with the English name, **Building Finishing System**, was given this contract by Vere Bird when they had no qualifications for the job.

In this respect Harris quotes from Engineer Al Wason's letter of 18 June, 1985, in which, among other things, the Consultant Engineer Al Wason stated:

"We cannot lay too much stress on the importance of proven competence and experience in airport rehabilitation and we would suggest that ICAO [International Civil Aviation Organisation] be asked for their opinion of BFS [Building Finishing System] before accepting the offer being studied".

Vere Bird jr, who pushed Public Works out of its "normal function" and took it over himself, never ever asked ICAO to give its opinion on the competence and experience of BFS in airport rehabilitation. He was required to ask but did not ask, because he knew and his French side-kick and Maryna Ltd partner, as well as Maryna Hotels Ltd partner, Patrick Sabourette de Nedde, also knew that Building Finishing System had no competence.

Without referring directly to the Prime Minister's words to the nation that Al Wason gave unconditional approval to the Vere Bird BFS project Harris quotes Wason himself to good effect and Harris exposes PM Bird's public statement to the nation, that Al Wason, approved unconditionally as a bare-faced lie, Harris does this by quoting Wason thus:

"The costs quoted by BFS cannot be substantiated at this stage. BFS promises to supply detailed breakdowns of costs for examination by the government. However the cost of the runway rehabilitation depends largely on the amount of overlay material being used [Harris' emphasis] and until this is finally determined within a limit of plus or minus 15 percent, it would not be possible to judge the validity of the costs. It is suggested that BFS be asked to supply more details on this aspect of their offer". The amount of overlay, we note, is crucial. And too, Wason is making his approval conditional.

Again Al Wason is quoted by Harris as writing on 29 October 1986 the following "Even at this late stage doubt of the qualification of BFS/Chantiers Modernes suggest that the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation) should be asked to confirm their qualifications." Again never done.

Then again "When it was recommended that an independent firm of consultants be employed to check the quality and quantity of the work being done, Wason

was informed by the Permanent Secretary of Public Utilities that the Cabinet had approved the employment of a consortium of local engineers to protect their interest".

Maryna Ltd, Vere Bird's company was employed as the Independent firm of consultants and not the "consortium of local engineers" which Cabinet decided on. Vere Bird rode rough-shod over Cabinet's decision! With whose approval?

DOWNRIGHT TRICKS

Then with remorseless logic Harris exposes the blatant conflict of interest and tricks employed by Vere Bird and colleagues in the whole US\$11 million airport deal.

"Mr. Lloyd Luckhoo presented a copy of the contract between the government and Maryna Limited to the Pan Caribbean Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Project (PCDPPP) for discussion".

However they "were informed that Maryna Ltd was a firm of consultants in France, but that when the Contract [presented by Luckhoo] was closely examined, it was discovered that Maryna Limited is a firm registered in Antigua and Barbuda". Purporting to be French, really Antiguan, and in fact owned by de Nedde, and Minister, Vere Runway Bird. Working fast and loose to rip off the nation is the only conclusion.

But Harris leaves no nail not driven home. He proves, first of all, that Building Finishing System was not an Engineering firm. Then with unfailing and impeccable logic Harris pins Vere Bird to the wall, hands and feet.

Harris wrote at page 12 "It is respectfully submitted that groups and individuals can only manage what they have the expertise to manage, and since BFS, which has absolutely no engineering expertise and experience was SELECTED to manage a serious engineering operation which the resurfacing of the V.C. Bird International Airport embodied,

it can be said "There was more than meets the eye". More than meets the eye, for sure!

NO WELL THINKING MINISTER

Harris is not done yet on this score. Further "if there was more than meets the eye" he wrote in his 45 page Documentary Brief **"no well thinking government, Minister, who is well acquainted with the Magnitude of Antigua and Barbuda's local and foreign debt would have saddled the government with such mammoth tripartite costs i.e. Management fees (BFS), Engineering and Construction (Les Chantiers Modernes and Moter) Supervisor (Maryna Ltd)."**

Harris will not leave the noose untied. He ties it. He wrote in his comprehensive Documentary Brief "From a financial and conflict point of view, I find that Patrick de Nedde is **Director and Chairman** of Building Finishing System (BFS) which is the Management group for the rehabilitation of the V.C. Bird International Airport and Patrick de Nedde is chairman of Maryna Ltd, a Company registered in St. John's which is **also** appointed to supervise the rehabilitation of the V.C. Bird International Airport".

NASTINESS

What a piece of nastiness! Minister Vere Bird secures the deal for his French side-kick Patrick de Nedde to rehabilitate the airport through his French Company BFS, and then Vere Bird again violates Cabinet's decision to have the work supervised and inspected by a "Consortium of local engineers" and gives it to Maryna Ltd, which purports to be a French Company, which in fact is an Antiguan Company owned by the same Minister Vere Bird, the same Patrick de Nedde, and the same Vere Bird's personal secretary Margery St Luce.

Harris leaves nothing to chance conjecture and speculation. He dots every i and crosses every t. He wrote at page 14

"At 7 June, 1985 when BFS was co-tendering with Chantiers Modernes for the rehabilitation of the V.C. Bird International Airport, it was **in receivership**. When a Company is in Receivership, it must identify itself to the public in a particular manner according to the law. The then Minister of Public Utilities [Vere Bird] is a lawyer, so I need say no more".

With that as foundation Harris continues, "The question now is, why did BFS contract to undertake a job which was beyond its competence and resources? It should be noted that Patrick de Nedde was the **Special Advisor** to the then Minister of Public Utilities [Vere Bird] on **all aspects** of the loan negotiation in France".

THE SAME PIMPERNEL

De Nedde **Special Advisor** to Vere Bird; the same de Nedde Director and Chairman of BFS, which gets the contract to do the rehabilitation work; the same de Nedde is Chairman of the same BFS which gets the contract to **manage** the rehabilitation work at the airport; the same de Nedde is Chairman of bankrupt BFS which awards the job to another French Company, Chantiers Modernes and Moter, for US\$1 million; the same de Nedde is involved in Maryna Ltd, with the same Vere Bird, which Company, Maryna Ltd, is to supervise and inspect the work on behalf of the **Antiguan and Barbudan government**; and, the same de Nedde is involved with Vere Bird in Maryna Hotels Ltd, which buys the Antigua Beach Hotel, where the same French workers building the airport stay. The arrangement is blatant. Antiguan and Barbudans pay.

But Harris is not done yet. Far from it. He wrote "It should be recorded that the then Minister of Public Utilities is the head of a law firm located at Redcliffe Street, St. John's, Antigua, and that while the Minister was negotiating business with BFS on behalf of the **government of Antigua and Barbuda**, his law firm was at the same time representing BFS in the negotiations." Unbelievable,

but true. Incredible even, but nonetheless true.

With this knowledge, now public, PM Bird has no alternative but to ask Vere Bird to resign. It cannot be expected that PM Bird will order his son Vere Bird to be prosecuted, **as should be done**, but the least that must be done is his immediate resignation for this breach of the law, his oath as a Cabinet member and his fiduciary trust. **It is gross misbehaviour in public office.**

MISBEHAVIOUR COMPOUNDED

Harris leaving no stone unturned, concludes this part of his evidence against Vere Bird and his obvious misbehaviour in public office thus p.14-15:

"The Minister of Public Utilities and Communications [Vere Bird] executed Addendum dated 14th January 1986, between the government of Antigua and Barbuda, and Building Finishing System to the substantive Agreement between the parties. Since September 1985, BFS was going into liquidation but the Minister **who is a lawyer** found it proper to do serious rehabilitation business with a dying company". It was to say the least, most improper.

The fact is, since BFS has declared bankruptcy and has been wound up, the government of Antigua has no one to hold responsible, now that the airport work was improperly done, and the improper work done was not equal to the inflated costs. And worse, the same Vere Bird Company, Maryna Ltd, on behalf of the government approved the fraudulent work.

Harris is even more telling on the de Nedde - Vere Bird - Airport - Antigua Beach Hotel connection. He wrote at P.16 on the subject "The conspicuous visibility of Patrick de Nedde" the following: "Simultaneous with the beginning of work at the V.C. Bird International Airport, a Company, **Maryna Hotels Ltd** incorporated under the laws of Antigua

on 5th July 1985, owned by Patrick de Nedde and others, negotiated the purchase of the **Antigua Beach Hotel** under the following terms (a) **\$4 million U.S. cash or \$8 million U.S.**, with a deposit of **\$1 million U.S.** and the balance paid in equal instalments over a period of 10 years".

Harris continues with the same tight and unchallengeable logic. Bird and Bird Chambers headed by then Minister of Public Utilities [Vere Bird] were the legal representatives for Maryna Hotels Ltd. According to conjecture, the then Minister of Public Utilities is a Substantial Shareholder in the Company, because cheques over a certain sum, it is said \$10,000, have to be countersigned by the Minister".

INDISPUTABLE PROOF

Then Harris continues with devastating effect to say the following putting the matter beyond conjecture and any reasonable doubt "Should **verification** of what is said above, or if **proof** is required as to whether or not Vere Bird jr has signed cheques on behalf of **Maryna Hotels Ltd** such **proof** can be provided".

Harris is in deadly earnest and is deadly in the use of facts, figures and other data. The negotiations were begun, were conducted, with a French Company without resources or expertise, and in which one of the negotiators on the **Antiguan** delegation, Special Advisor de Nedde, was a Director and Chairman of the very French Company with which Antigua was negotiating. The head of the Antiguan delegation, Vere Bird jr, who is negotiating with BFS is **at the same time** the Antiguan legal representative of the very French Company with which he is **negotiating!** Out of the negotiations comes a Hotel, owned by Maryna Hotels, which Hotel the same Vere Bird and the same de Nedde sign cheques for over \$10,000. The case is beyond doubt. Vere Bird clearly misbehaved, in a gross and vulgar way, in public office. PM Bird must now ask him to resign.

'Chaos' at ALP Caucus

St Johns OUTLET in English 6 Feb 87 pp 1, 3

[Text]

The Ruling ALP was brought to its knees as the Special Caucus called by the Ruling party to heal the wounds which the V.C. Bird Airport Scandal has created broke up in chaos, as Ministers attacked each other openly and speakers broke down in tears.

The ALP Special Caucus of the Party which was held at Dutchman's Bay last Sunday February 1, began peculiarly, with Minister of Education Reuben Harris and humiliated Minister of Health and Labour, Adolphus Freeland absent.

At the ALP Caucus ALP Ministers were supposed to make statements but only one Minister, Lester Bird, got the time to make a statement before confusion, charge and counter charge erupted, renting the Caucus apart.

ALP political leader for 44 years now Vere Cornwall Bird 77, sat powerless watching the confusion he had helped to spawn run amok, leaving the ruling party in shambles.

Lester Bird made the first and only presentation at the ALP Caucus calling for unity in the party. He was strong on the question that the recent charges made from the party of a Palace Coup to overthrow Prime Minister V.C. Bird were absolutely "divisive" and were setting the ALP on a course "of immediate self-destruction." He received loud applause from the Caucus members, when he said he had given a personal example of the need for unity in that he and new Minister of Agriculture and Housing Hilroy Humphreys had not spoken for two years, and now that they were speaking and working harmoniously together, there were elements in the party and leadership who were thoroughly annoyed.

Vere Bird jr, who had walked with a gang of roughnecks to the Caucus openly lashed out at his brother Lester Bird and accused him in alliance with of all persons Bradley Carrott of seeking to overthrow the Prime Minister V.C. Bird in a Palace Coup.

The Caucus was thrown into confusion at this point and numerous persons spoke in a babel of voices. Some there were who wondered aloud how PM Vere Bird could allow this attack on Bradley Carrott, President of the Senate and who acts as Governor General to go unanswered and uncorrected.

Senator Robin Bascus, also intervened and stunned the caucus as he launched a salvo against Vere Bird jr claiming that the money expended on the V.C. Bird airport was "grossly inflated" and arrested that the whole party and ALP government was being ruined as a result of the scandal.

Vere Bird again countered by waving aloft, the 45 page devastating Documentary Brief prepared by Harris, implying that this was the work of the Cabinet of Eight designed to hurt him.

At this stage, one of Vere Bird's roughnecks loudly called Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird "a vagabond of the worst kind". The Deputy Prime Minister was infuriated, uttered some strong words and walked out of the Caucus with a good deal of the members following. It was obvious that PM Bird was condoning the attack on his second son Lester Bird, by Vere Bird and his group, who obviously came with a plan to disrupt the Caucus and prevent it from reaching any conclusions on his future in the Party after his involvement in the US\$11 million rip-off.

A measure of order was eventually restored and Deputy PM Lester Bird returned to the Caucus. Then events took a surprising turn. For the first time women intervened in a decisive way.

The well known and respected Gwendolyn Tonge, Head of the Women's Desk, in a moving speech among other things said that PM Bird was holding the whole Party and country to ransom just to protect his son, Vere Bird jr. Ms Tonge broke down in tears as she finished her speech. She was appalled to see to what depths the ALP and its leadership had sunk.

Ms Viella Charles also spoke making a strong speech that Vere Bird jr was the root of the problem and until the problem was rooted out there would be no solution.

Vere Bird seethed with anger, and rose again lashing out at his "enemies", at Harris, at Lester Bird and calling for Ron Sanders to go, (at which stage he

was supported by the Chamelion Bascus) and sections of the crowd answered angrily "For What". Pandemonium reigned. Persons present said it looked as if Vere Bird could have physically attacked his brother Lester Bird right there and then. He repeated his charge about the Coup of 1979 giving more details of how the coup makers got the rid of Cosmos Phillips and were going to PM V.C. Bird after.

Many refuted it as nonsense. Some said he was trying to divert the Caucus "with this coup business" in order "to cover-up" his "own Crime".

As the chaos reigned the Caucus broke up in just a little more than an hour. Instead of the Caucus solving the crisis, the crisis dissolved the Caucus.

Is PM Bird willing to ransom party, government, national interest in the interest of his son? How long will this continue? Where will it all end?

More on Nedd Probe

St Johns OUTLET in English 2323 GMT 6 Feb 87 p 9

[Text]

Sir Archibald Nedd Investigation which replaced the Public Inquiry promised by Prime Minister Bird and in official release is costing the country a pretty penny.

Sir Archibald Nedd, the sole investigator, is being paid the sum of **\$400.00 per day** to perform his function of investigating the rehabilitation of the V.C. Bird International Airport and its environs.

Apart from the sum of \$400.00 per day, the sole investigator will have all his expenses paid by the government of Antigua.

It is not known how much Lloyd Luckhoo

Q.C. who defined his function as "assisting the Investigator" is being paid.

However the FAA Report on the rehabilitation of the Airport says the following at Attachment 7 "Mr Lloyd Luckhoo legal Consultant to the Government retained by the Ministry of Public Utilities and Communications on behalf of the Government to look after the interest of the Government during the negotiations and throughout the loan agreement with the Banks and the Contractors Total Fees due US\$23,000. A copy of Mr Luckhoo's bill is attached".

Mr Luckhoo was not known to be in France during the negotiations for US\$11 million

French loan, and Vere Bird said he was in Contact with legal consultant Lloyd Luckhoo by telefax. It is not known how much these telefax communications cost. Mr. Luckhoo was paid his US\$23,000 from the loan funds.

Harris in his brief to the Investigation (See Front page story) put Luckhoo, who is supposed to be "assisting the Investigator" in the dock when Harris queried at page 32 in his document "The question turns on who is really responsible for Mr Luckhoo's fees? The government? Antigua Public Utilities? Or the Contractors?

Harris further put Luckhoo in the dock when at page 33 Harris asserted "During the period stipulated here, Mr Luckhoo provided legal services to Maryna Hotels Ltd, and Maryna Ltd, along with the

vendor of the Antigua Beach Hotel for the purposes of the sale of this Hotel to Maryna Hotels Ltd from who were legal fees received?"

Harris urged the Investigator that it would be prudent to inquire into this transaction. In other words the Investigator would have to investigate his assistant! What kind of thing is this?

It is reported by legal sources, that Luckhoo received a fee of US\$10,000 for the transfer of the Antigua Beach Hotel, to Maryna Hotels Ltd, Harris query "from whom were legal fees received" makes Luckhoo a subject of investigation. But isn't he assisting the Investigator in his investigations, this most expensive investigation in which the facts are all documented in official reports? What kind of thing is this?

ALP Unity, Oversight Measures

FL190034 Bridgetown CANA in English 2323 GMT 18 Feb 87

[Text] St Johns, 18 Feb (CANA)--The ruling Antigua Labour Party (ALP) of Prime Minister Vere Bird said today it had agreed on a series of measures aimed at preserving the unity and integrity of the party, wracked for the whole of this year by bitter infighting.

Deputy Prime Minister and ALP Chairman Lester Bird named among the measures establishment of a committee to overlook government borrowings in the wake of persisting opposition allegations of corruption.

Bird told reporters the decision was taken at an ALP retreat Saturday [14 February] where the party hierarchy reaffirmed their support in the ALP leadership and were determined to improve the "system of consultation" among themselves and the Antigua Trades and Labour Union (ATLU), industrial arm of the party.

Bird said the so-called "oversight committee" would include representatives of the Christian Council, the trade union movement, and private-sector organisations.

"The government will ask the Christian Council, the trade union movement, and private-sector organisations to nominate their own representatives to the oversight committee, which shall have the authority to advise the government and satisfy the public whether there is any evidence of wrong-doing on projects involving government borrowings and procurement," Bird said.

"Cabinet will be asked to authorise the legal department to draw-up appropriate terms of reference," he added.

Bird said the ALP also agreed that a mechanism should exist "for the orderly transition of the leadership should circumstances make such a transition necessary,"

"It was agreed that by doing so, the party would be acting with prudence and good sense and this should not be construed by anyone as an effort to remove the leader in whom the party, as a whole, reaffirmed their confidence," Bird said.

This was one of two matters the deputy prime minister said deserved early attention. The other involved regular meetings among executive members of the ALP and the ATLU to create "a better appreciation of government decisions."

"We will take steps to ensure that this is done and I, as chairman, will confer with the party leader and the president and general secretary of the union on the best means to achieve this," Bird said.

"The councils of the Labour Party, which debated the operations of the party, are convinced that these two measures will strengthen the party still further and help it to continue to steer the course of stability and prosperity which has so far marked Antigua and Barbuda's development," Bird said.

He added that a drafting group which devised amendments to the ALP constitution last year will be re-convened to consider this requirement and to submit recommendations for its implementation to the next convention of the party.

Bird said the party also collectively agreed to put an end to recent allegations and reports of "a so-called plot to overthrow the prime minister," since it "has caused many people inside and outside of Antigua and Barbuda to look at the government and the party with concern."

"It has also prompted reports of political instability...and the party wishes to assure everyone both inside and outside of Antigua and Barbuda that they need have no fear about the stability of the government of this country," Bird said.

He accused opposition groups here of luring some ALP supporters "into making statements without having all the facts at their disposal, while others have been maliciously misrepresented by opposition groups."

He made particular reference to the current one-man judicial investigation here into the contract cost and conditions of a controversial airport rehabilitation project—a probe the opposition has described as a farce.

"The government should not be baited into taking any action without the benefit of the results of the investigation now being conducted by (ex-Grenada chief justice) Sir Archibald Nedd," Bird said.

"It has been decided, therefore, that cabinet will await the findings of the investigation before making any further pronouncements on this matter," Bird said,

Bird also vowed that his party will not allow opposition groups to distract it any longer from the task of "effectively governing this country" and said Saturday's retreat "agreed that all of us will now buckle down seriously to the job of managing the affairs of Antigua and Barbuda and to continuing to deliver the conditions for economic prosperity and social upliftment which this country now enjoys."

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CSO: 3298/145

NATION'S 1983-85 ECONOMIC GROWTH BEST IN CARIBBEAN

St Johns HERALD in English 6 Feb 87 pp 1, 2

[Text]

The Antigua and Barbuda economy grew by an average 6.5 percent in real terms over the period 1983 to 1985, the highest in the Caribbean, according to figures released by the World Bank in Washington.

In a case by case study of the Caribbean territories covering all Caricom member states as well as Suriname, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, the World Bank showed that Antigua's achievements more than doubled many of the other territories. In fact, only St. Lucia, which recorded almost 6 percent growth in real terms in 1985 came close.

It attributed the growth to "the very robust performance of the tourist sector, with stop-over visitors in 1985 over 50% higher than that achieved in 1982". The World Bank report noted that the performance of other sectors of the economy has been more variable. "Agricul-

ture", it said, "exhibited good growth in 1985, following the drought of 1983-84. Manufacturing on the other hand, has stagnated, primarily due to continuing trade difficulties within Caricom."

According to the World Bank, price inflation continues to moderate, due to the slower pace of price rise for imported goods. "The rate of price increase in 1985, on a year round average, was 0.96%". To a large extent, there has been moderation in the pace of wage increases; however, **awards in 1984 and 1985 were all substantially above the pace of consumer price increase,**" it noted.

The World Bank also praised the Government for sound fiscal management which it said contributed to the economic growth. "In addition to this good overall economic performance, the government has made progress in improving its fiscal situation, with consolidated public sector

savings of 4.6% and 3.1% of GDP in 1984 and 1985. In large measure this has been due to a fiscal austerity programme that has successfully constrained the growth in current expenditure and more effective revenue collection efforts," the World Bank stated.

The internationally-recognised and respected finance institution added that the government had introduced a number of revenue raising measures in the latter part of 1985 and early 1986, which it said would have contributed to a good economic performance last year resulting in public sector savings of about 5.6% of GNP in 1986.

On the minus side, the report noted that government had been unable to prevent a further build-up in arrears on existing foreign and domestic debt. In addition, it said, new public sector borrowing abroad rose sharply in the latter half of 1985 on account of four major development pro-

jects. These were mainly financed on commercial terms with very short repayment periods.

A government spokesman said Antigua and Barbuda was turning more and more to the Commercial Banks for loans to undertake projects because of the country's relatively high per capita income (put at over US\$2,280), which is above the poverty level, making it difficult to raise soft loans from the International Finance Institutions.

Meanwhile, the government is anticipating similar if not better growth in 1987. "Several major infrastructural and Hotel projects are to come on stream or begin this year," Minister in the Ministry of Economic Development, Hon. Hugh Marshall disclosed.

"The Canadian Government is showing interest in financing the expansion of the Deep Water Harbour, the British are interested in providing electricity generation in Barbuda, and the European Development Fund

shows willingness to finance phase two of the road programme to include Big Creek, round the Valley into Sweetes, All Saints and most of the streets in St. John's," Mr. Marshall announced. Phase two of the road programme will commence immediately after phase one, which is now in progress.

He also disclosed that Jolly Beach Hotel will soon begin an expansion adding 1,000 beds, a Marina and a Shopping Centre making it perhaps the biggest Tourist Complex of its kind in the Caribbean. He added that a new Hotel Complex, Turtle Bay Club, will also begin at Dieppe Bay, Falmouth, shortly.

By comparison, while Antigua and Barbuda recorded 6.5% growth last year, the other Caribbean territories could only muster growth ranging from 3% in the Bahamas, 0.3% in Barbados, 1% in St. Kitts-Nevis, 1.1% in Dominica, 4% in Trinidad and Tobago to 1% in Guyana and 5.0% in Jamaica.

CHARGES OF FNM DRUGS, ARMS STOCKPILING BRING REACTION

Police Investigations

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 2 Feb 87 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

POLICE investigations into allegations that the Opposition has been stockpiling drugs and arms at Peterson Cay off Grand Bahama appear so far to have drawn a blank.

The allegations have now dragged on for two months. The Police have made no report on the matter.

The accusations were made by St Agnes MP Kendal Nottage, who was found by a Commission of Inquiry to have fronted for a mafia figure/drug trafficker, from a public platform December 4. Mr Nottage claimed that the facts were "easily verifiable." Prime Minister Lynden Pindling was present when he made the remarks.

On the campaign trail, Mr Nottage is trying to keep the fire burning. His strategy seems consistent with the Prime Minister's - muddy the waters to divert attention from the real issues.

Police Commissioner Gerald Bartlett could not say today if those facts had been confirmed. He refused all comment.

It is also understood that Operation Bahamas Turks and Caicos (BAT), a joint US/Bahamas drug SWAT team, knows nothing about drugs and arms stockpiling at Peterson Cay. Operation BAT covers the entire Bahamas.

The centre of Mr Nottage's smuggling claim - tiny Peterson Cay, an obscure rock and small beach of about two and a half acres. Its claim to fame is the beautiful coral reefs around it. There is a little low lying shrub and one big casurina tree.

A Bahamas National Trust park area, Peterson Cay is unique because this type of formation is extremely rare on the leeward side of an island. One and one-quarter miles east of the Grand Lucayan Waterway, it offers a fair weather shelter and its sandy beach off the north east end of the island is a popular picnic spot.

It is not a likely drug drop-off point.

The water on the southern side of the cay is deep, but the shoreline is rocky. This is not the type of landing point that smugglers would use to load or offload illicit cargo.

Brown reef breaks over the north eastern end of the cay, extending 300 yards out. Coral reef dots the northwestern end. The beach on the south side of the cay is accessible, but boats must be careful to round the brown reef and then they have to cross a shallow sand bank or sand spit.

FNM shadow Attorney General Orville Turnquest said that Mr Nottage used a political rally to make his accusations

because he realizes what he says "is nothing more than pure garbage which he has manufactured for his own political ends."

"I know there are some members of the party who are embarrassed by this nonsense. It doesn't seem as if they're able to influence Mr Pindling" to have the matter discontinued, Mr Turnquest, who is waiting for an official police reply on the matter before he makes a full statement, said.

He said that Sir Lynden must approve of what Mr Nottage is doing or he would not continue to share the same platform.

Mr Turnquest said that Sir Lynden organizes the political rallies, determines their dates, arranges for transportation of supporters "and stage manages the entire rally."

Mr Nottage started his allegations December 4 when he claimed that the FNM was stockpiling weapons, ammunition, drugs and drug money in preparation for the upcoming general elections.

But on December 6, Mr Bartlett said that he had received no such complaint.

Digging up the 1972 election violence, Mr Nottage claimed that the FNM took young boys and men off the job to form a "terror squad."

In 1981, Sir Lynden, under

the privilege of Parliament, linked the FNM to the Barry Major murder, for which two men were subsequently hanged, setting the stage for the 1982 general elections. However, the Police had no evidence to substantiate the allegations and subsequently, no charges were filed against anyone.

"There's never been anything. We've challenged the Attorney General. We have challenged Pindling and those who have been using this as a smokescreen," Mr Turnquest said.

However, Mr Nottage con-

tinues to sling mud at others. He maintains that he is clean.

On December 8 he repeated the Peterson Cay allegations before a crowd of about 450. Sir Lynden told the crowd he wished he could make love to them all.

On December 10, Mr Nottage met with Mr Bartlett to discuss what "information" he had on the matter.

On January 18, he publicly repeated the allegations.

In the House of Assembly, FNM deputy leader Cecil Wallace-Whitfield called Mr Nottage "a preposterous liar."

Commissioner's Concerns

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 3 Feb 87 pp 1, 10

[Text]

THE police continue their investigations into allegations by St Agnes MP Kendal Nottage that the opposition Free National Movement is stockpiling guns and ammunition in readiness for the upcoming general elections, Commissioner of Police Gerald Bartlett said today.

And, further allegations by Mr Nottage last night that certain elements within the FNM have now begun to distribute the guns and ammunition from the stockpile "concerns me," said Mr Bartlett.

However, the FNM have denied all of the charges. In a statement issued today, the party repeated FNM Deputy Leader Cecil Wallace-Whitfield's statement to the House that Mr Nottage was "a preposterous liar."

Contacted today, Mr Bartlett said: "I don't mind what Mr Nottage is saying. Mr Nottage is a politician who gets up on a platform and says anything he wants to say. We deal with specific complaints. Mr Nottage is a lawyer, if he has information he would bring it to me. I am not responsible for what politicians say."

Questioned about Mr Nottage's latest allegations, Mr Bartlett said: "That statement

concerns me. If the FNM is issuing arms, that concerns me."

Mr Bartlett said that some months ago Mr Nottage presented him with a letter containing certain information, which police are investigating. "I imagine he will come and present me with another letter," said Mr Bartlett.

Asked the result of the investigation, Mr Bartlett said: "I don't think I am duty bound to report to any newspaper to say how far my investigation has progressed. I am satisfied that the investigation is going on."

In its statement, the FNM said Mr Nottage, "the condemned PLP Member of Parliament, in an attempt to prove his worthiness to his political partners and their few remaining supporters, has conjured up another fanciful tale of gun and ammunition running and supplying in the Bahamas, allegedly by the FNM."

"The FNM stands by the accurate and proper labelling given to Nottage by FNM Deputy Leader Cecil Wallace-Whitfield who, in raising the question of the veracity and official investigation of Nottage's allegations in parliament, dubbed the man who was found by the Commission of Inquiry to have fronted for a Mafia figure, 'a preposterous liar.'"

"Mr Nottage knows that this is precisely what he is. No amount of rallying to the corrupt cause of his corrupt party will save his already rotten image in the country. He is a destroyer who, not content with destroying his own credibility and his own political party, is now hell bent on destroying the remaining honest incorruptible citizenry of the Bahamas."

The FNM recalled that the Commission of Inquiry found Mr Nottage to have fronted knowingly or not for Michael Salvatore Caruana, a fugitive from American justice wanted on four counts of murder, drug-running, and running a continual criminal enterprise.

"It is interesting to note that Caruana is a member of the Raymond Patriarch crime family of New England, the United States," said the FNM. "A recent Time Magazine report revealed that the Patriarch family empire is built on gun and ammunition running to terrorists groups in Italy and the Middle East."

Mr Nottage, the FNM stated, claimed that he is concerned about his Bahamian brothers and sisters "but the truth is that he is concerned about his and Pindling's survival."

"If Mr Nottage really cared about the safety of the Baha-

mian people," stated the FNM, "he would tell American authorities where Michael Salvatore Caruana was the last time he spoke with him and this will help those law enforcement agencies to flush Caruana out of hiding.

"If Mr Nottage cared about the Bahamian people he would not dare put his name up for nomination in general elections because he would know the odium and ridicule it would bring to his political party and the country because of the Commission of Inquiry's report."

The FNM pointed out that to date Mr Nottage has been unable to take the police to one

area where he said guns and ammunitions were stored. Too, stated the FNM, Mr Nottage has been unable to name one individual in the hierarchy of the FNM as having been involved in stockpiling guns and ammunition.

"With the Government's recent touting of the success of the United States radar balloon over the Bahamas, the extensive patrolling of our waters by the Defence Force and the inevitable concern about which Mr Nottage's statements must have engendered in the police force, not one gun has been discovered, one bullet found, and not one arrest made," stated the FNM.

Action Group's Comments

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 6 Feb 87 p 1

[Text]

IT IS now possible that anarchy could prevail in the Bahamas because of St Agnes MP Kendal Nottage's allegations that the FNM is stockpiling and distributing guns and ammunition, the New Action Group said Thursday.

In a three-page press statement, the group said that American tourists and businessmen in the Bahamas could be caught in the middle of such chaos that could result from Mr Nottage's allegations.

The group, which is associated with the FNM, said that it is "startling" to know that the American Ambassador has "sat by idly" knowing of the peril to American tourists and businessmen in the Bahamas.

The group demanded an immediate statement from Police Commissioner Gerald Bartlett on the investigation into the "ruthless, wild and reckless" charges against the FNM by Mr

Nottage.

The group further demanded from Deputy Prime Minister/Minister of Tourism Clement Maynard an assurance to tourists in the Bahamas and those planning to visit, that they need not fear for their physical safety, which could be the implication from the Nottage allegations.

The group's statement came in response to Mr Nottage's latest assault on the FNM in an address at a PLP rally in St Barnabas on Monday night.

On December 4, Mr Nottage, a former Cabinet Minister, charged that certain elements in the FNM are stockpiling guns and ammunition in readiness for the upcoming general elections.

Going a bit further Monday night, Mr Nottage claimed that certain elements in the opposition party have now begun to distribute the guns and ammunition from the stockpile.

In the House of Assembly

FNM Deputy Leader Cecil Wallace-Whitfield called Mr Nottage a "preposterous liar," and Police Commissioner Bartlett said on Tuesday that he is "concerned" about the new allegations, which are being investigated by the police.

The New Action Group said that in view of Prime Minister Pindling's so-called economic revolution and Mr Nottage's story of pending civil unrest and terrorism in the nation, the Bahamian people ought to realize that someone is "playing games with their head."

The group said that the Prime Minister, Mr Roker and Mr Maynard know what happened to tourism in Bermuda and Jamaica when civil unrest erupted in those islands.

The group said that the fact that "these men" would allow Mr Nottage to continue his wild allegations unchecked "is indeed a sad, sad state of affairs."

PARTIES PREP FOR GENERAL ELECTION; PLP WINS ST BARNABAS

Vanguard Leader's Speech

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 27 Jan 87 p 12

[Article by Alexis Wallace]

[Text]

THERE is no way that government can raise money for serious capital development in the future without a progressive income tax, said Vanguard Chairman and St Barnabas candidate, Lionel Carey.

Mr Carey called for a social revolution to transform society into one that will open "vast opportunities for the working class and dispossessed of the land."

Speaking to a small, but enthusiastic crowd Mr Carey was the last speaker at last night's St Barnabas Vanguard rally. Tears flowed from the eyes of Mr Charles Fawkes as he told his listeners what government had failed to do for the country.

During Mr Fawkes' speech the electrical power box tripped and the basketball court's lights temporarily blinked out. "This PLP country!" shouted a young lady in the shadowed outskirts of the court. "It must be PLP country because the vision is gone," replied Mr Fawkes.

"Dare to struggle, dare to win," the Vanguard's theme, was taken up by the each of the Vanguard speakers, including the Chairman Carey's wife. As the wind and cold intensified the theme took on a double meaning for Vanguards.

"Rather than the politics of emotion tonight we will be dealing with the politics of reason," said Mr Carey. "Because I don't know how to make a fool of myself to get on television."

"St Barnabas like most constituencies over the hill has been one of those constituencies that has supported the PLP for over 20 years. You have been faithful in returning a PLP candidate to the

House of Assembly but what have you gotten in return?"

Mr Carey said that the Vanguard from its inception has been calling for a social revolution.

"For us the social revolution means making the kinds of social changes that will transform our society from one which is geared to benefit mainly the rich and powerful to one that opens vast opportunity for the working people and the dispossessed all over the land."

He said this meant there should be a more equitable distribution of wealth, where the government must establish a minimum wage law in which the individual rewards for his labour can earn him or her a decent living."

Mr Carey said that a Vanguard social revolution would not mean taking away one of your cars if you have two to give to someone else "what one individual works for under a Vanguard government would be the property of the individual."

Mr Carey said that a fairer distribution of wealth could be accomplished through a progressive income tax system where those who make more pay more. "The rich mercantile class who are able to pass duty on imports to the consumer should cease."

"Some people argue that since government gets its revenue from import duties then such a tax as a progressive income tax would be counter-productive." Mr Carey said that such an argument supports the view that government should exploit the poor in favour of the rich "as they are doing now."

"In this country," said Mr

Carey, "less than 12% of the people are controlling more than 52% of the wealth."

"There is no way that government can raise money for serious capital development in the future without a progressive income tax."

He said that the other political parties would not dare to touch this issue because "they are in the back-pocket of the big merchants, Paradise Island and other investors."

He said that the high level of crimes, drug abuse, unemployment, (in spite of the so-called prosperity government is talking about), is proof that government is caught in a quagmire of inertia without the slightest inkling or the will to move the so-called social revolution ahead.

"The only kind of revolution the PLP is interested in making is one in which more politicians become millionaires as opposed to one that will radically change the socio-economic conditions of the masses."

"It is the PLP who 33 years ago took their case against the UBP to the UN when it was in opposition," said Mr Carey. "Among other complaints were the serious housing conditions over the hill."

He said that special emphasis was placed on the serious health hazard of out-houses. "Nevertheless after 20 years of PLP government these conditions have remained the same."

"Today the area is still typified by out-houses, run down shacks, heavy unemployment, low salaried workers, health hazards, crimes, drug abuse."

Union Candidacies

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 29 Jan 87 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

AT LEAST one union leader is likely to run against the PLP in the upcoming general elections, the Trade Union Congress announced today.

Renewing its call for a coalition of opposition forces to defeat the PLP Government, TUC president Arlington Miller said that several members are being considered as candidates.

"I think the front runner in the candidates now is Keith Archer and if we are going to run, he'll be the one," Mr Miller said.

Mr Archer is president of the Bahamas Communications and Public Officers Union which represents Batelco and ZNS workers.

It is understood that the FNM is now considering switching its candidate for Fort Charlotte, Arlington Butler, to another constituency to make way for Mr Archer.

There is also strong speculation that TUC secretary general Leonard Archer may accept a proposal by the Congress to be a candidate and that the new Garden Hills or Oakes Field constituencies are being looked at.

"It's a very interesting speculation and on the face of it a winning speculation," Mr Archer said. He would not elaborate.

The former president of the Bahamas Union of Teachers, Mr Archer was forced into early

retirement by Government, ostensibly because he "had not acted in the best interests of the public." In truth, he was an outspoken critic of Government and it is widely felt that he was victimized for political reasons.

Mr Archer said that the TUC would like to see a situation similar to that which happened in Trinidad where three opposition forces united and formed one organisation - Organisation for National Reconstruction.

A grouping and accommodation of political persons was formed rather than a single political party.

"What we're saying is, we see no reason why a similar arrangement can't be worked out here in the Bahamas," Mr Archer said.

"We discussed this last year. There was general acceptance of the idea. One of the problems, of course, was working out the mechanics."

Quoting Lynden Johnson - "reasonable men being reasonable will achieve anything" - Mr Archer said:

"If the interests of people like ourselves in the opposition parties put the country first - not self, the country...if we've come to the conclusion that certainly we in the TUC did last year that without reservation and as far as we are concerned, the present government is absolutely corrupt and the country needs to be rid of it, if we be-

lieve that then it seems to me that it ought not be too difficult to put aside our personal differences, our personal ambitions and become true patriots, putting the needs of the country first. And I believe that could be done."

Keith Archer said that the TUC is looking at political involvement very seriously because since 1978 it has been trying unsuccessfully to have labour laws introduced that is favourable to all.

He said that the TUC sees its role as uniting all the opposition forces, whether they be FNM, Vanguard, Workers Party and PLP dissidents from which the best candidates could be selected.

James Blatch, president of the Bahamas Maritime Port and Allied Workers Union, said it is time labour had someone in the House of Assembly who will speak out on behalf of the workers.

"The PLP is not doing anything to help the workers in this country," he said.

There is a strong view within the TUC that there are certain people who are in the PLP or independent in their thinking who want an alternative to the PLP, but who cannot identify with the FNM.

It is felt that these people would be more likely to support a coalition opposition.

TUC on Boundary Changes

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 29 Jan 87 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text] Government was today condemned for attempting to remain in power by gerrymandering the boundaries by the Trade Union Congress.

Fresh from its third annual retreat in George Town, Exuma, the umbrella trade union passed two resolutions, which;

- Demands that a proposed pension scheme for Members of Parliament be similar to that provided for other public servants, and that pensions be paid only to those MPs who regularly attend Parliament and perform the people's business.

It was also resolved that at the same time pensions are provided for MPs, provision be made for the revision of the present pensions of retired servants.

- Condemns Government's attempt to remain in power by gerrymandering.

The TUC, which has 11,000 paid up members but speaks for many more, also agreed to become more politically involved and expressed the opinion that labour must have a voice in the House that will be truly representative of the needs of the working people.

"Rather than facing up to the proper representation of the people, its (Government) trying to gerrymander the boundaries in such a way that it can maintain itself in power," Leonard Archer, secretary general, told a news conference this morning.

Arlington Miller, president, and other union executives, attended.

The TUC takes the view that the purpose of Parliament is to provide representation, Mr Archer said.

However, the people are not being represented now with 43 MPs and increasing the number of seats to 49 "will not increase the representation."

Mr Archer condemned the exercise as an unnecessary expense on the Bahamian people.

"As a matter of fact, as we

see it, it is simply the Government's attempt to maintain itself in power by simply increasing the number of seats," he said.

"It did it in 1982 and it is attempting to do it in 1987 and obviously it didn't learn from history because when the UBP tried it in 1965 it didn't work for them and I doubt seriously it is going to work for this Government this time.

"The Government needs to face up to the fact that there are certain areas where the number of voters do not justify the numbers" in the House.

Mr Archer said that there are not enough voters in Andros to support three MPs, "but obviously this Government will not reduce the number of seats in Andros for obvious reasons."

While the Prime Minister might be elected to his South Andros constituency by less than 1,000 votes, others have 3,000 voters in their districts, he said.

Another excellent case of gerrymandering can be made out in Grand Bahama where a seat has been carved out of the existing seats because the PLP probably feels it is a "safe" seat, he said.

In Elizabeth Estates, Government has created a housing estate and then put the entire establishment in one constituency.

"That is not by accident, that is by design and no matter how many times the Prime Minister protests that they want fair elections, the fairness is not necessarily what happens on election day. It's all the stuff that goes on before elections and gerrymandering is by no means a fair and proper way to

conduct elections," Mr Archer said.

On pensions, he said that the TUC is not against pensions for MPs, but since they are paid out of the public service and treasury, civil servants should have the same pension scheme.

If MPs can get a pension after five years, civil servants, who have to wait for 30 years, ought to have similar benefits, Mr Archer said.

"We're simply saying that there should be equity in terms of how the pensions are laid out," he said.

He said that some civil servants have contributed far more to the country than MPs, who merely make up a number in the House.

Mr Miller said that the 33 delegates at the retreat strongly condemned an editorial which appeared in The Nassau Guardian on January 21st entitled "All Bahamians not to blame."

He said that the editorial attempted to create the impression that the leadership of the Congress is divided and he emphasised that Mr Archer speaks as he does as secretary general on behalf of all.

Mr Miller said that Mr Archer has never expressed any desire to hold any other office in the Congress save that of secretary general, an office which he has loyally and competently held for more than eight years.

Mr Archer said that he had a charitable and less charitable view of whoever wrote the editorial.

He said that the charitable view is that whoever wrote the "garbage" was so blinded by their own prejudices that they did not even bother to read the statement in question

PLP Candidate Selection

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 30 Jan 87 pp 1, 4

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

KENDAL Nottage - the man found to have fronted for a

New England organized crime figure/drug trafficker - has been recommended for nomination by the PLP Candidates Committee.

Not recommended was Perry Christie (Centreville), the Prime Minister's "dynamic young go-getter," whose reputation stands untarnished. Only recently, PLP chairman Sean McWeeney claimed that Mr Christie was in good standing with the PLP.

"It appears that something has gone wrong with those who control the party. I don't know if Mr Pindling is thinking quite clearly in this matter," former Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Hanna, who has given all of his adult life to the PLP, said today.

He said that he supports Mr Christie 100 per cent and urged Centreville not to let their MP down.

"I'm really saddened and annoyed that they treated him so badly when I know personally how he served the Government. He was a true builder of the party and the Bahamas and as a Minister, he was one of the Prime Minister's best," Mr Hanna said.

However, there were indications today that no firm decision has been made about Mr Christie. PLP chairman Sean McWeeney refused to comment on that or any other matter relating to candidates.

Recommended for re-nomination by the Committee, of which Prime Minister Lynden Pindling is a member, were:

- Sir Lynden (Kemps Bay), whose own Commission of Inquiry could not state positively that he did not receive money from drug-related sources. A minority report found it impossible to say that some of the funds were not drug related. It was also found that Sir Lynden spent eight times more than he earned over a seven year period, accepted \$334,000 indirectly from the clandestine sale of Paradise Island Bridge and accepted large payments from foreign investors.

- George Smith (Rolleville), who on the balance of probabilities received a BMW car from the organisation of Col-

ombian drug kingpin Joe Leher.

- George Weech (Bimini), who, according to the Commission, accepted \$1,000 from an FBI undercover agent whom he suspected was a drug trafficker.

Wesley Campbell, a two-time candidate for the Vanguard socialist party, has been recommended to carry the PLP banner in Cooper's Town.

And up until last night, the PLP was unable to find a candidate to replace Mr Christie in Centreville.

It is understood that Attorney General Paul Adderley, a close associate of Mr Christie, was offered Centreville but declined. He has been recommended for St Michael's, which is considered a PLP "safe" seat.

Further, it was reported that Centreville was mentioned to Alyson Maynard Gibson, daughter of Deputy Prime Minister Clement Maynard. However, the Maynard family did not want Mrs Gibson to get into a dispute with the PLP dissidents and Sir Lynden, a source said.

Mrs Gibson denied that she was offered Centreville, or that any overtures were made to her about it. She declined to comment further.

However, it is understood that Mrs Gibson was then offered the new Adelaide district, but unsure of being able to secure a "more winnable seat," she bowed out. There was also talk that she would not run because she is pregnant.

Attempts were made to have Bahamas High Commissioner in London Richard Demeritte accept the Centreville nomination, but these fell through, a source said.

The latest name mentioned for Centreville is Bradley Demeritte, a tennis pro.

Sir Lynden gave Mr Christie, a former Minister of Health, the prestigious Ministry of Tourism in 1982 because he said he wanted a "dynamic young go-getter" to fill the post.

But in 1984 he fired Mr Christie, who had intended to resign because he could not support the Pindling leadership as a result of Government corruption disclosures.

And Mr Hanna, who has been "recommended" for nomination for Ann's Town, said today that the party had made a mistake.

He said that this is the first time the PLP has conducted its private business in public and that this presumably means that public comment is being called for. Ordinarily, he would not have commented, he said.

He suggested that something has gone wrong and that Sir Lynden is not thinking clearly.

"Because when I can see Mr Pindling nominating UBPs for safe PLP seats and denying Christie of even a worthy mention, something has gone wrong," said the seasoned politician.

He was referring to Marvin Pinder as a UBP, who has been recommended to contest the new Malcolm Creek seat.

Mr Hanna said that Mr Christie was a PLP when he was a boy; that he served his country and party well and "I am shocked to know that Pindling didn't even want his name to go before Council."

"It's unfortunate that even if we look at the whole slate of candidates, Christie himself came out with an impeccable character, while they chose to mention others who have been condemned by the Commission. I don't see the logic of recommending them and denying somebody like Christie who has an impeccable record," he said. He did not want to name those who he thought were condemned by the Commission.

"I'm with Christie 100 per cent and I hope the people of Centreville don't let him down. First of all, Christie is a true PLP. Secondly, he's done nothing to be treated in this fashion."

Mr Hanna said that even if the PLP intended to give Mr Christie a nomination later on, they have humiliated him so much that it would be difficult for him to face his constituents.

"So they have put him in a position where he can't accept," he said.

"He served his country well as a Minister and he served Mr Pindling well and it's a crying shame that he (Pindling) is trying to take out this petty spite" on him.

Meanwhile, St Michael's MP George Mackey has been shifted to Fox Hill, where the PLP won by only a small margin in 1982. His transfer paves the way for Mr Adderley, who would not run unless he was assured a "safe" seat.

PLP chairman Sean McWeeney told the Press that George Town MP Livingston Coakley, Fox Hill MP Frank Edgecombe and South Beach MP Bobby Glinton did not seek re-nomination.

"As for Mr George Mackey's shift to Fox Hill, it was felt by the Candidates Committee that he was the logical replacement

for Mr Edgecombe, having regard to his traditional close ties and long association with the Fox Hill community," Mr McWeeney said.

However, an informed source said that Sir Lynden does not trust Mr Mackey who was identified with the dissident group in 1984.

Mr McWeeney said that the Candidates Committee is continuing its deliberations with respect to the Adelaide, Centreville and Montagu constituencies and that a separate report on them will be made shortly.

The National General Council has adjourned to Wednesday

of next week at which time debate on the recommendations of the candidates committee will begin.

There is strong speculation that there will be opposition to Mr Hanna's nomination and to those of Kendal Nottage and George Smith. Mr Hanna resigned from the PLP in 1984 because he said he had to make a fundamental choice between right and wrong.

On the Nottage nomination, several MPs are expected to voice strong opposition.

"I don't think the curtain has come down yet," said one source.

Full List for PLP

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 30 Jan 87 p 1

[Text]

THE following individuals have been recommended to the council for nomination as official PLP candidates in the forthcoming general elections:-

NEW PROVIDENCE

Ann's Town:- Hon Arthur D Hanna;
Bain Town:- Hon Norman R Gay;
Bamboo Town:- Mr Leander C Minnis;
Blue Hills:- Mr Leslie O Miller;
Carmichael:- Mr Alfred Gray;
Delaporte:- Mr Neville Wisdom;
Englerston:- Sir Clifford Darling
Ft Charlotte:- Mr Valentine Grimes;
Ft Fincastle:- Hon Alfred T Maycock;
Fox Hill:- Mr George Mackey;
Garden Hills:- Dr Bernard J Nottage;
Grants Town:- Mr Bradley B Roberts;
Holy Cross:- Mr Charles Carter;
Malcolm Creek:- Mr L Marvin Pinder;
Marathon:- Sen The Hon Ishmael Lightbourne;

Oakes Field:- Mr Phillip Pinder;
Pinedale:- Mr Milo B Butler, Jr;
St Agnes:- Mr Kendal W Nottage;
St Barnabas:- Dr Matthew A Rose;
St Michaels:- The Hon Paul L Adderley;
Salém:- Mr David Knowles;
Shirlea:- Mr Michael Russell;
South Beach:- Vincent Peet;
Yamacraw:- Mr Neville Adderley;
Yellow Elder:- Hon Clement I Maynard.

GRAND BAHAMA

West End:- Mr Moses A Hall;
Eight Mile Rock:- Mr Alton Wallace;
Pine Ridge:- Mr Albert Gray;
Marco City:- Mr Michael Pinder;
High Rock:- Mr John Martin.

FAMILY ISLANDS

Kemps Bay:- The Rt Hon Sir Lynden Pindling;
Nicholls Town:- The Hon A Loftus Roker;
Mangrove Cay:- The Hon Darrell E Rolle;
Bimini & The Berry Islands:- Mr George Weech;

Cat Island:- Mr Ervin Knowles;
Coopers Town:- Mr Wesley Campbell;
Marsh Harbour:- Mr Edison Key;
Rock Sound:- Mr James Moultrie;
Governor's Harbour:- Hon Philip Bethel;
St John's:- Mr Peter Bethell;
George Town:- Sen The Hon Ruby-Ann Darling;
Rolleville:- The Hon George A Smith;
Clarence Town:- Mr Everette Cartwright;
North Long Island/Rum Bay & San Salvador:- Mr Phillip P Smith;
Acklins & Crooked Island:- Mr Wilbert Moss;
Inagua/Mayaguana:- Mr Francis Whittington Saunders.

Pindling Remarks

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 30 Jan 87 p 4

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

GOVERNMENT has never consciously thought of doing anything "illegal or irregular" with the election process to win, Prime Minister Pindling assured members of the House of Assembly Wednesday night.

The Prime Minister said that the amendments to the Representation of the People Act, 1969, now being debated in the House, were proposed to safeguard the "rights and privileges" of Bahamian voters.

In his contribution to the debate on the bill, which will be taken through the committal stage when the House meets again on February 11, the Prime Minister defended Government's interpretation on the register of voters for the June 30, 1986, bye-election in St Barnabas.

The Election Court ruled in December, 1986, that the St Barnabas bye-election was void because an "expired" register of voters was used.

The Prime Minister said Government based its decision on the interpretation of the register by the Election Court on February 4, 1983, in the Holy Cross bye-election petition.

He told the House that the Election Court, which gave a decision on December 19, 1986, on the St Barnabas bye-election petition, "apparently" did not agree with the decision of the previous Election Court.

The Prime Minister said the decision of one Election Court could be reversed by the decision of another Election Court, which unlike other courts, is not necessarily bound by previous decisions made by it.

"I am sure we will again find that from time to time we need to amend the Representation of the People Act, but I would like to assure all members of the House, sir, that the government has never had any thought of doing, by conscious acts, any-

thing illegal or irregular with the election process in order to win," the Prime Minister said.

"And we have proposed these amendments with a view to establishing that," the Prime Minister added.

The Prime Minister said that a Parliamentary Registrar has no control over a situation that Fort Charlotte MP Valentine Grimes brought to the attention of the House earlier on in the debate.

"A Presiding Officer declared that a person who was inside the polling station and hadn't marked his ballot before six o'clock, if he insisted on marking his ballot, he had to vote on a coloured (protest) ballot," he said.

"Much of these little difficulties could be avoided, I think, sir, if the Parliamentary Registrar had briefing sessions for his Presiding Officers so that they can be more familiar with the voting procedures and what they ought to do in certain basic situations," he said.

"There is no person and there is no Act that could conceive of every possible circumstance in human experience so there are bound to be some situations where a fellow will genuinely not know what to do and he has to make a judgment call on the spot," he said.

"No difficulty, sir, we all have to do that at times, we may be right, we may be wrong, we call the play as we see it at that time. Under different circumstances you may have decided differently but at that time, that's how you saw it and that's how you called it," he said.

"But I think considerable problems might be resolved if the Presiding Officers were more thoroughly briefed on the procedures," he said.

"That would even be more necessary now sir should the

House approve the amendments which are proposed today because some who would have been Presiding Officers before and may be Presiding Officers again, would have been accustomed to a certain set of certain procedures, and they would all need, of course, then sir, to be updated on what the new procedure is," he said.

"So sir, I would like Honourable Members to know that the bill proposed by the Honourable Minister moving in the matter, is a significant step forward," he said.

"It sets out to make more certain areas of doubt that has arisen in our election laws between 1982 and now and further safeguards the rights and privileges of voters all over the Bahamas," the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister then explained the reasoning behind Government's interpretation of the law with regard to the register of voters.

The Prime Minister said that unfortunately, an Election Court is not necessarily bound by previous decisions made by it.

The Prime Minister quoted from the 1983 judgment of the Election Court in the Holy Cross case, which stated: "Upon dissolution of the House of Assembly, the current register ceases to exist and is replaced by the Corrected register pursuant to section 25, Subsection 7 of the Act."

"In our view, the Corrected Register then replaces the Current Register for all of the purposes of the Act, and is therefore subject to the provisions in Section 23," the Prime Minister said.

"Based on what the Election Court said in 1982, the Government adopted the course on the position that it gave because it interpreted those words in

the usual way, the Corrected Register then replaces the Current Register for all the purposes of the Act," he said.

"It was based on that decision of the Election Court, delivered on the 4th of February, 1983, that the subsequent interpretation by the Government as to what the Corrected Register is and when the Register comes into effect, was made," he said.

"Now another Election Court, which made its decision in December, 1986, apparently did not agree with that conclusion of a previous Election Court, and is not bound by it," he said.

"A decision made by one Election Court can be amended or reversed by a decision of another Election Court, so be it," he said.

"But there was basis on which the Government's inter-

pretation of the law was based, and that basis was in the judgment of the Election Court in the Holy Cross case, delivered by two judges on the 4th of February, 1983," he said.

"One judge of the Election Court in 1983...what made it more confusing for the Government was that one judge on the Election Court in 1983 was also one judge on the Election Court in 1986," he said.

Disruption at Rally

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 3 Feb 87 p 1

[Article by Alexis Wallace]

[Text]

LAST night's PLP rally was temporarily disrupted by about a dozen Workers Party supporters who turned out with placards to oppose the PLP and defend their grounds.

The Conch Shell restaurant and bar is the location of the Worker's Party headquarters. It is where the PLP held last night's rally.

At the front of the rally amidst uniformed officers Worker's Party St Barnabas candidate Rodney Moncur stood, arms folded, with his supporters. During the speech of St Barnabas MP Dr Matthew Rose, he booed loudly.

"No free seat!" was the chant taken up by supporters. At the rally's start Worker's Party members had stood at the door of the restaurant, displaying their placards. Moncur held a large grey microphone.

Dr Rose's attention was obviously drawn to the boisterous disruption of his opposition who had made their way to the front of the room. The young doctor started to stutter as he spoke. He did not speak long.

Today Mr Moncur called the report in The Nassau Guardian about last night's incident, "biased ... yellow propaganda."

The Guardian had reported this morning that "Moncur had

tried to hook up with his own public address system, but was prevented from doing so by police officers."

Mr Moncur said that the microphone that he had was not used and his demonstration was discontinued, not because he was forced to stop, but because, unknown to the PLP, the proprietor of the Conch Shell, Mr Forrester Bowe, is his uncle.

Mr Moncur said that the hierarchy PLP had begged his uncle, midway through Sir Lynden's speech to intervene on their behalf.

"The police can't stop me from holding a demonstration in my own headquarters," said Moncur. "The fact that the PLP held a rally there was provocation ... and they tore down my sign which we had made since we had no money to buy one."

Mr Moncur said the Guardian report had suggested that the Workers Party's heckling was stopped as soon as it was started, "when in fact that was not true."

Mr Moncur said that persons standing in the street could have testified that "we had effectively disrupted Rose and Pindling and he was only saved when my uncle intervened."

Sir Lynden was obviously annoyed as Workers Party

members disrupted the meeting and subsequently his speech.

"Now there are some people who would come into St Barnabas carrying placards they can't even vote here but, that's all right, no problem!" he remarked.

The Prime Minister continued, shouting, "...but in this election as a matter of fact there is only one problem in this by-election, there is only one problem, the PLP is running against the clock. Don't count Moncur he ain't nobody!"

Sir Lynden said the PLP must come out to vote to run against the clock. (FNM slogan 'Time For A Change').

More promises of jobs were made last night by the Prime Minister. "Lot's of new construction jobs are coming on stream," he said. "All of you young fellows who said that you ain't had nothin' to do, I can't hear you come with that no more now."

The Prime Minister, still angry by the Workers Party's bold opposition to his rally, turned on the placard holders, "Now I know there are some who don't want to work, they would rather hold up orange placards."

"That's the answer to that story," said the Prime Minister. "Instead of holdin' up

your hand with the man's placard put a shovel in it and try holding it down to the ground."

"Instead of trying to catch a bum ride at night," he said, "get yourself an honest day's work in the day."

"As I said on the basketball court in December in a couple

months, no man who intends to work, no man who intends to find an honest day's work will be able to say he cannot find one," said Sir Lynden.

Last night also saw the birth of a new PLP slogan authored by the Prime Minister, "Leave no doubt, all you've got to do is knock them out!"

Roker Resignation Rumor

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 6 Feb 87 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

PLP CHAIRMAN Sean McWeeney today dismissed as "baseless" rumours that National Security Minister Loftus Roker has resigned.

The rumours started early this morning and, by lunch time, had gathered momentum. Tribune telephones were kept constantly busy with callers who wanted to know if they were true. The rumours did not specify whether Mr Roker was supposed to have resigned from the Cabinet, or PLP.

"As far as I am aware, that is completely untrue. Based on my information, I would dismiss it as baseless rumour," Mr McWeeney, who had heard the rumour himself, said.

However, it was reported later today that Mr Roker had a letter delivered to Mr McWeeney last night. Although it is not known what the letter would have contained, there was speculation today that Mr Roker may have given an ultimatum.

"He certainly did not make any communication to me or any of the national party officers, as far as I'm aware. If he did, I am sure I would have been told," Mr McWeeney said.

"A complete and absolute joke," he said later today.

It is known that Mr Roker was not supportive of the re-nomination of persons like St Agnes MP Kendal Nottage, whom the Commission of In-

quiry found fronted for a New England mafia figure/drug trafficker.

It is understood that Mr Roker went to Miami early this morning as he had planned a number of days ago.

Although he is a member of the Candidates Committee, it has been reliably reported that Mr Roker did not participate in the meeting to finalize the candidates report. It is understood that he and Ann's Town MP Arthur Hanna were the only two members who did not attend that meeting.

This means that neither of them formally agreed to the report that recommended the Prime Minister, Mr Nottage and Rolleville MP George Smith as candidates.

"It is extremely significant for him to be a member of the committee and not to attend the final meeting," a political observer said today.

Mr Roker is a man who does not want to be viewed as a hypocrite.

At the PLP Convention last October, he introduced a Resolution declaring that Progressive Liberal Party members should not associate with anyone in any way connected with persons in the drug trade.

Sir Lynden and the entire delegation rose in support of the Resolution.

Two nights later, Attorney General Paul Adderley said that the Commission's findings

against Sir Lynden, Mr Nottage and Rolleville MP George Smith were unjustified by circumstances, lack of evidence or by wrong or improper conclusions.

Mr Roker has said in the House that he would not run again in North Andros if his generals could not guarantee him his seat. He also said that he did not want the support of anyone involved in drugs. There is a lot of drug wealth in his constituency. Also, it is doubtful that Mr Roker will be given his Ministry again, should the Pindling Government win the next elections.

Also in 1985, Mr Roker urged Sir Lynden to disassociate himself from any situation or person whose activity would make it appear he condoned "shady activity."

Addressing the 1985 PLP Convention, he said that this was Sir Lynden's last chance to wipe out corruption from the Bahamas and lift the Bahamas and its people above "all the problems, beyond all the clouds for a bright tomorrow."

"You will now need more than easy speeches to comfort the Bahamian people. From now on solid performance is the only thing which will count," Mr Roker said the year after the Commission of Inquiry reported.

"Your position on important national matters must be unequivocal. If the well-being of

the Bahamian people is to be safeguarded you must cast off all, and I repeat all, obstacles which tend to drag us into the mud and move resolutely into the future to open a new dawn for our young and not so young, who for years waited so patiently for the complete fulfilment of their dreams."

Mr Roker then told Sir Lynden he must disassociate himself "from any activity or persons whose association would attempt to mislead the public that you approve of any shady activity in any way."

[THE TRIBUNE on 9 February, page 1, reports in part as follows:]

It is understood

that there could be some basis for the rumour. Mr Roker was strongly opposed to the re-nomination of St Agnes MP Kendal Nottage, whom the Commission of Inquiry found fronted for a New England mafia figure/drug trafficker.

It has been reported that Mr Roker sent a letter to Prime Minister Lynden Pindling and that he more than likely gave an ultimatum. This report has not been confirmed. However, there is speculation that Mr Roker may not run for the PLP in the upcoming general elections if Mr Nottage is formally nominated.

Vanguard, Workers Party Claims

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 10 Feb 87 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

VANGUARD Leader Lionel Carey said he will do better if there is a high turn out of voters in today's St Barnabas bye-election while Workers Party Leader Rodney Moncur predicted his party will be established as the "third force" in the country.

Mr Carey and Mr Moncur are battling against Dr Matthew Rose of the PLP in an attempt to capture the St Barnabas seat in what the country's major opposition party, the Free National Movement, has described as a "meaningless" election.

Mr Moncur, dressed in camouflage battle fatigues, and Mr Carey have been touring the various polling stations at St Cecilia's School, Mable Walker Primary School, Yellow Elder Primary School and Jumbey Village Museum.

Mr Moncur said that poll workers have been given instructions that if anything goes wrong, they are to "break up the thing."

"We have our men on alert and if need be we will storm the polling box," he said.

Voters trickled to the polls today to cast their ballots amid tight police security and barricades, which were missing during last year's bye-election when there were fights and arguments.

Police officers - both uniformed and plainclothed - and poll workers far out numbered the number of voters at the polling stations.

"Well it's hard to say. It is still very early and I believe it will pick up. Well I don't know but I feel it might be a low turn out, but, you know if it's a high turn out, I think we can do better with a high turn out rather than a low one," Mr Carey said today.

Asked whether the FNM's call for its supporters to boycott the poll contributed to the low turnout this morning, Mr Carey said: "If there is enough discontent in St Barnabas

against the PLP, I think people will still come out and vote."

"From going around it appears that a lot of people are angry with the Government and they are prepared to go out and vote," Mr Carey said.

"Now the stalwart members of the FNM, of course, that's the card-carrying party members who are officers in the branches and so on, those kind of people obviously are going to take the party line and that is to stay out," he said. "But I don't know. I don't know if the others will."

"It seems rather quiet and I think probably things will start to shape up much later on. I prefer to wait and see," he said.

Mr Moncur said the PLP cannot get more than 500 votes. If they do, he said, it would "shock" him.

"Doing our campaign, one of the things we have discovered is that there were many persons who are disillusioned and disenchanted over the fact that

Matthew Rose had made a lot of promises," he said.

Mr Moncur said that one lady told him that in June she was given a letter to take to the Ministry of Education, but after taking the letter, she did not get the job.

"She is angry. She felt that politicians generally use the masses and she says that she ain't going to vote, and so there has been a lot of people who told us that they will not be voting," he said.

"Some will not be voting because I think they are listening to the FNM when the FNM called for many of them to boycott," he said. "I think quite a large percentage who will not show up is due to the fact that they are tired of the PLP."

"It is sad when you enter their homes and hear some of their complaints, particularly

with regard to Rose who has made a lot of promises but did not deliver, only to find himself in an unfortunate position, whereby there is another bye-election, he hasn't lived up to any of his promises and so the question is what does he think they will do?" he asked.

In his campaign speech, broadcast over radio ZNS last night, Dr Rose promised the people of St Barnabas employment, housing, sidewalks, telephones, recreational facilities and flood control schemes in return for their votes today.

Mr Moncur said that whatever happens at the polls, today it will be a victory for the Workers Party.

"For one, the PLP now knows that they are not only contented to deal with Her Majesty's Official Opposition, which is the FNM, but they must also deal with the people's opposition, which is the

Workers Party," he said.

"I think the Workers Party has established the fact that it is the third force in the country," he said. "I think at the end of the day when the results are in we will have clearly established that we are the third force."

The election is to fill the vacancy created by the May, 1986, death of the late former MP Sinclair S Outten.

The election in St Barnabas is the second in eight months and comes less than two months after the Election Court ruled that the first poll conducted on June 30, 1986, null and void because an invalid register was used.

The FNM, which petitioned the Election Court to declare last year's bye-election void, has refused to contest the poll saying it will use its resources to get ready for the general elections which is to be held this year.

Moncur-Nottage Clash

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 10 Feb 87 p 1

[Text]

TEMPERS FLARED in St Barnabas this morning, sparking off an altercation between St Agnes MP Kendal Nottage and Rodney Moncur, the Workers Party candidate in today's bye-election.

Mr Moncur said that Mr Nottage got "entangled" in a small crowd of people after a Worker's Party agent, Necolia Jacques, was evicted from one of the polling stations.

Mr Moncur, dressed in battle fatigues, said he warned Mr Nottage not to "play" after Nottage pointed his finger in his face.

"Both of our hands reached out but mine reached his face first," he said. Mr Moncur said he "tapped" Mr Nottage on the face.

"After my hand collided in his face, I went about my business," he said.

At polling division no 7, Mr Jacques objected that he could

not hear the presiding officer, who was instructing a voter on procedure. This is what sparked off the row.

It was reported that the officer told Mr Jacques to be quiet and sit down. Mr Jacques said that as an agent, he had a right to hear what was being said and to object. The exchange led to a row. The presiding officer asked the police to evict Mr Jacques.

As Mr Jacques was being evicted, Mr Moncur said that Mr Nottage entered the room and that they all became embroiled in a row.

"Mr Moncur would not obey the rules of the presiding officer. He decided to disregard the law. And I went to the assistance of the presiding officer to straighten the matter out and ensure that the law was being carried out," explained Mr Nottage.

"Mr Moncur tried to create

an argument but one man can't argue. I didn't argue with him. I had no debate with him," Mr Nottage said there was no fight.

Voter turn-out was low this morning as the St Barnabas constituency went to the polls to elect a new representative.

And to the incumbent Progressive Liberal Party, this bye-election is "just a dry run" for the upcoming general elections.

Up to noon today, only a mere trickle of voters had turned up to cast their ballots for Dr Matthew Rose of the PLP, Lionel Carey of the Vanguard Socialist Party or Rodney Moncur of the Workers Party.

This bye-election was previously held on June 30 last year but was ruled void by the Election Court when the opposition Free National Movement protested that the wrong register of voters was used. The FNM is not participating in this election.

Anticipating a low voter turn out, the PLP election machinery came out in full force-bussing people to the various polls. Prime Minister Lynden Pindling, who worked polling division 3 at Jumbey Village during the last election, spent the morning at Dr Rose's headquarters.

However, Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament were seen strategically placed at the polling divisions directing supporters.

Compared to last year's bye-election, security has been increased. Barricades have been erected.

Deputy Prime Minister Clement Maynard saw this bye-election as "a real test to interest the people who live in the constituency to come out and vote."

Noting that this is the second bye-election for St Barnabas in a short period of time, Mr Maynard said he believes they should turn out in sufficient numbers to show their interest and give a resounding victory to Dr Rose.

Asked how this bye-election would indicate what would happen in a general election, Mr Maynard said:

"If the PLP gets a very, very strong victory that will set the pace and set the tone for the general election."

He pointed out that the FNM being the main opposition would play a bigger role than either the Vanguard Party or the Workers Party against the PLP.

"One would expect that the difficulty would be at least twice as much," said Mr Maynard. The PLP, he said, is

hoping for a minimum of 70 per cent of the voter-turnout.

It has been argued that a general election at this time would be more appropriate than a bye-election. Mr Maynard was asked his views on that.

"In our system the Prime Minister decided when to call a general election and when to call a bye-election and I have always supported his point of view," said Mr Maynard. "But he is a winner and he knows how to go about elections better than anyone I know."

Dr Rose sees this bye-election as being "extremely important" for several reasons.

"It will show the country that the Progressive Liberal Party is still the only choice and still the solid choice of the majority of Bahamians," said Dr Rose. "The FNM decided to boycott the elections under the guise that it was just another sham, which in my opinion is extremely disrespectful in the first place, to consider an election just a sham."

"But the real reason they boycott was so that they would be in a position to perhaps claim voters who did not show up to the polls and say that they were their supporters, knowing full well that they were not their supporters."

"The other importance of this election is that we will see exactly who the supporters really are for. I anticipate that of the 2,500 people registered, the majority of them would come out and vote today even though there is no visible opposition candidate."

Asked how this would in-

dicate what would happen in a general election, Dr Rose said the Leader of the Opposition before the last bye-election said that St Barnabas was a testing ground.

"I think everybody agreed that St Barnabas was a testing ground and in my opinion that has not changed," said Dr Rose. "St Barnabas still is the testing ground."

The presence of the FNM, he said, would have made it easier for him. "Then we would have had a visible opposition," he said. "The people in this area take a delight in beating the FNM and so the joy they would have had, for them it is not really there."

"The fight is actually tougher because now I have to motivate these people to get out when the FNM is not there, whereas if the FNM was there I would have had no problems in motivating the people to get out."

He predicted that both Mr Moncur and Mr Carey would lose their deposit and the overwhelming majority of voters who vote today will support him and the PLP.

Having won the court's decision and then not to participate in the election "to me it is direct evidence that indeed the statements that they made about having majority in St Barnabas were merely fabrications."

"It seems to me that if I thought I could win, it wouldn't matter to me whether it was a bye-election or a general election. Your supporters are your supporter."

Vanguard Broadcast

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 10 Feb 87 p 9

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

THE PLP has displayed "utter contempt" for the Bahamian people by failing to respond to any semblance of morality and accountability, Vanguard Leader Lionel Carey said in an election broadcast

over ZNS last night.

Mr Carey, the last of three candidates in today's St Barnabas bye-election to address the nation, said that the PLP has nominated politicians for the coming general elections

who are seriously compromised and whose actions in public life have embarrassed the country almost beyond redemption.

In his five-page address, Mr Carey, a 44-year-old New York University-educated socialist, said that the rich are still getting richer and the poor getting poorer under the PLP Government.

Mr Carey today faced paediatrician Dr Matthew Rose of the PLP and Rodney Moncur of the Workers Party in the second bye-election in St Barnabas in eight months to fill the vacancy created by the May, 1986, death of the former MP Sinclair S Outten.

"The social and economic conditions of communities like St Barnabas highlight the neglect and more importantly illustrate the total powerlessness of the masses, for only when the masses lack real power can any government continue to abuse them in the way that the Progressive Liberal Party has done," Mr Carey said.

He said that when the popular masses brought the PLP to power in 1967 over white minority rule, everyone thought it was going to be a new day, but victory soon turned into defeat as the PLP adopted some of the basic traits of the UBP such as victimization, arrogance and abuse of power.

"It turned out that the fundamental difference between the PLP and their former adversary was just a matter of biology, one is black and the other is white," he said.

Mr Carey said the PLP had a golden opportunity to use its popular mandate and the trust placed in them by the masses to bring about a Bahamas where democratic ideals and true independence could have been the

order of the day.

"However, their fundamental desire to be like their former oppressors, coupled with their lack of philosophy, led the PLP to betray the masses," he said.

"The rich are still getting richer under the PLP and the poor are still getting poorer," he said. "Class divisions are becoming wider and the exploitation of the worker is more intensified."

He said that the black majority is still not included in the economic mainstream, of society and many of our solid black business institutions have been wiped away and the banks are still discriminating against black businessmen.

Mr Carey said the Bay Street clique is now more entrenched and is now praising the PLP government.

He said they are no longer interested in frontline politics, and are manipulating the two major parties - PLP and FNM - from behind the scenes.

"In fact the little difference which exists between the two parties, the PLP and FNM is becoming hardly distinguishable," he said.

Mr Carey said that the Vanguard does not oppose a multi-racial party, but is saying that with the two parties on the side of the ruling class, the only party that exists as the true expression of the masses is the Vanguard Party.

He said that the PLP today is typical of those Third World parties that started out with lofty ideals and no philosophy and ended up being corrupt and oppressive.

He said that personality cults and the most sinister and bizarre manipulation of the toiling masses takes the place of statesmanship and integrity in public life.

"Today, the character and content of the PLP are moulded in the person of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is now the party and the party the Prime Minister," Mr Carey said.

"Whenever this happens to an organisation, it will lack the ability to check itself, therefore only a well-developed system of party democracy can prevent such an occurrence," he said.

"A party which cannot respect democracy and accountability in its own ranks cannot be serious about democracy and accountability at a national level," Mr Carey said.

"The PLP has nominated politicians for the upcoming general elections who are seriously compromised, whose actions in public life have embarrassed the country almost beyond redemption," he said.

"The PLP has failed to respond to any semblance of morality and accountability, thus displaying utter contempt for the masses," Mr Carey said.

"The point is that this kind of behaviour can only go unchecked in a society which lacks the basic checks and balances in the political system," he said. "The Vanguard Party believes that only a broad-based popular democracy which places controls in the hands of the masses can act as a real check against corruption," he said.

"Our political system which is based on the Westminster model leaves us too much at the mercy or whims of the politician," he said.

"This is why we emphasize that the content and form of popular democracy in the Bahamas must place ultimate authority in the hands of the people."

PLP By-Election Victory

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 11 Feb 87 p 1

[Text]

DR MATTHEW Rose of the Progressive Liberal Party took 95 percent of the votes polled yesterday to win the St Barnabas bye-election for the second time in seven months.

The results, said Dr Rose, send a clear and unequivocal message to the Bahamas "that the PLP is solidly in charge of this country and it will indeed win the general elections whenever they are called."

Of the 1,495 votes cast, Dr Rose received 1,420, Rodney Moncur of the Workers Party, 56, and Mr Lionel Carey of the Vanguard Socialist Party, 19. There were 2,510 registered voters - 1,015 persons did not vote.

"I feel great," said Dr Rose. "I am very happy and delighted that the party made such a magnificent showing in this bye-election.

"Last time we captured 60 per cent of the votes, this time around we captured 95 per cent of the votes. Last time around we won about 900 votes and this time around we won 1,420.

"Whichever way one prefers to look at that, that certainly sends a clear and unequivocal message to the Bahamas that the PLP is solidly in charge of this country and that the PLP will indeed win the general elections whenever they are called."

Asked whether he was concerned about the slow turnout earlier in the day, Dr Rose said: "I was not concerned about the turnout in the least. Once you have done your homework you know your people and you know where they are at what time. And so, when the turnout was slow we knew that in the afternoon the voting would have picked up and certainly as we predicted, the voting did indeed pick up and as a result you saw the type of victory that was demonstrated here today."

Dr Rose, who served as Member of Parliament for St Barnabas for a short period, said he will "pick up" where he left off.

The first bye-election was held on June 30 last year, but

was declared void by the Election Court when the Free National Movement's candidate Edmund Moxey protested that the wrong register of voters had been used. The FNM did not contest yesterday's bye-election.

"The people of St Barnabas certainly demonstrated today their anger and their dislike of the tactic that the FNM tried to use," said Dr Rose. "They went to court to say that they should have been declared the winners. They got a fair and just ruling on their opinion. They could have contested the election. They could have shown up and see what they are really worth. Instead they decided to stay away under the disguise that they were conserving energy and conserving resources for a general election. This win today in my mind will send shivers through the FNM's spine and they will see for sure that they can write off St Barnabas for ever and ever."

To Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling, yesterday's bye-election, "tactically has been the most difficult election we have fought, not having an obvious political candidate over there against whom PLPs can get riled up about.

"Tactically we had to revise our whole approach to this election and we had everything to lose insofar as if we were not able to perform to match any of our previous percentages, the FNM would have been able to say that we fell back."

He pointed out that the PLP had to poll more votes than it did last June and more votes than the late Sinclair Outten did

in 1982. The PLP's turnout could not have been less than 1982, he said, "because that would be attributed to mean that the PLP had less appeal in June than they had in February. So we were fighting numbers.

"But, as it turned out, we have surpassed all our projections and have done remarkably well. We have surpassed Sinclair Outten's general election figure, he got 1,301 votes in 1982, we got 1,420 today.

"The percentage of the voters who turned out to vote in June of last year was 55 per cent and 56 plus today. We got 60 per cent of the votes cast in June and we got 96 percent of the votes cast today.

"On top of that it has got to be remembered that in June there were 2,800 registered voters when we polled 900 odd votes. Today we polled 1,420 votes with a smaller register. In other words, with 300 less registered voters on the list we polled 400 more.

"So the percentages are all in our favour which confirmed our projections that this is significantly another 5 per cent swing in favour of the PLP."

"In the general election," said Sir Lynden, "we are aiming for a 60 per cent popular vote across the country. The deep south and some parts of the Family Islands are going to register from 60 to 90 per cent. Some other areas will register less so we think we would do a voter plurality of 60 per cent or better."

He said the general elections will be called anytime between now and September this year.

Workers Party Showing

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 11 Feb 87 p 1

[Article by Alexis Wallace]

[Text] Yesterday's bye-election established the Worker's Party as a third political force in the Bahamas.

"You have the PLP, the official opposition (FNM) and the Workers Party who have established themselves from 1978 to 1987," said Workers Party Chairman and St Barnabas candidate, Mr Rodney Moncur.

"And we have proven that we are the third force in the country, and because we have beaten the Vanguard who have been in existence since 1971."

He visited the eight polling divisions in the St Barnabas constituency during the day as the voters cast their ballots. The polls were manned by observers for all three candidates - Dr Matthew Rose, PLP, Mr Moncur, Workers Party, and Mr Lionel Carey, Vanguard.

At 5:40 pm the crowd grew in front of the PLP's St Barnabas Headquarters. The Prime Minister's navy blue BMW was surrounded by a small crowd, some of whom wore PLP t-shirts.

Several months ago a livelier crowd of more anxious supporters had waited for the outcome of the June 10, 1986 bye-election between FNM candidate Edmund Moxey and Dr Rose.

When Dr Rose was again declared the winner, Vanguard Leader Carey said that despite the fact that the Vanguard had not won his party had received a positive "vibration" from the community, although not yet translated into votes.

He said that what bothered him about Bahamian elections was that the issues were not being

weighed as highly as they should. Mr Carey received 19 votes.

Around the corner from the PLP Headquarters at the Conch Shell restaurant Workers Party members and leaders listened intently for an 'expected outcome' of the election. Their candidate, Rodney Moncur was dressed in full battle fatigues.

Of the 1,495 votes cast in Tuesday's Election, 56 of those votes went to Mr Moncur.

Mr Moncur accepted his defeat calmly. He waited for all of his poll workers before conceding defeat.

"No free seat! No free seat!" shouted Workers Party members. "I say whatever it was that made you vote for me today we will continue the struggle," said Mr Moncur.

"The people have spoken. I have consulted with my leader, Mr Philip Miller, who works in polling division #1 and he has reported to me that he has seen no irregularity." Mr Moncur said that there was no sign of "irregularities" at the polls.

"Therefore on the basis of that we will be good losers. If there were no irregularities then we are

not going to say that there was an irregularity."

Mr Moncur had warned before the election that there would be "trouble" if the Workers Party discovered any election irregularities.

Mr Moncur said that the people of St Barnabas have spoken in this bye-election "and that is how it stands until the general elections."

Thanking all of his party officers he said that the struggle will continue. "We will continue to fight and we have established that we are the third force."

Mr Moncur said the Workers Party will hold a convention, perhaps by month's end. "And so the party will immediately set plans and we will hold our convention here at the Conch Shell."

Mr Moncur said that the 56 votes received by his party in the bye-election means that his party is the official third force.

"We were able to campaign the constituency and were able and successful in manning each polling division. But, the struggle will continue and, my brothers and sisters, I don't want you to lose heart."

St Barnabas Vote Figures

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 12 Feb 87 p 12

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

DR MATTHEW Rose of the PLP increased his margin of victory in all eight polling divisions in Tuesday's St Barnabas bye-election.

The total votes over last year June's bye-election were increased by 481.

However, in his landslide victory, Dr Rose did not face an opponent from the country's major opposition party, the Free National Movement. He ran against two candidates from smaller parties, the Vanguard Socialist Party and the Workers Party.

Both Mr Lionel Carey (Vanguard) and Mr Rodney Moncur (Workers) lost their deposits by failing to capture at least 10 per cent of the votes cast.

Of the 1,495 persons who voted in St Barnabas Tuesday, Dr Rose

received 1,420 or 95 per cent of the votes compared to 56 votes or 3.75 per cent by Mr Moncur and 19 votes or 1.30 per cent by Mr Carey.

In the June 30, 1986, bye-election in St Barnabas, Dr Rose polled 939 votes to 609 by the FNM's candidate Mr Edmund Moxey and won in seven of the eight polling divisions.

In Tuesday's bye-election - the second in eight months - Dr Rose swept all eight polling divisions increasing his margin of victory by a minimum of 42.

In Polling Division No 1, Dr Rose polled 269 votes, Moncur, 7; and Carey, 6.

In Polling Division No 2, Dr Rose polled 248 votes, Moncur, 10 and Carey, 2.

In Polling Division No 3, Dr Rose received 132 votes, Moncur, 2 and Carey, 4.

In Polling Division No 4, Dr Rose polled 155 votes, Moncur, 4 and Carey, 2.

In Polling Division No 5, Dr Rose received 149 votes, Moncur, 5 and Carey, 1.

In Polling Division No 6, Dr Rose polled 207 votes, Moncur, 18 and Carey, 1.

In Polling Division No 7, Dr Rose received 135 votes, Moncur, 3 and Carey, 1.

In Polling Division No 8, Dr

Rose polled 125 votes, Moncur, 7 and Carey, 2.

Dr Rose received 92 more votes in No 1 on Tuesday than he did last year; 102 more in No 2; 42 more in No 3; 42 more in No 4; 58 more in No 5; 57 more in No 6; 45 more in No 7; and 43 more in No 8.

Tuesday's election was held to fill the vacancy created by the May, 1986, death of the St Barnabas MP Sinclair S Outten.

Dr Rose, who won the first bye-election in June, 1986, had to vacate his seat after the Election

Court ruled in December, 1986, that the election was void because the wrong register was used.

The ruling was made on a petition presented by the losing candidate in that election, Mr Moxey.

However, the FNM refused to run Mr Moxey in the second bye-election, claiming that it was a meaningless exercise and that the party would use its resources for the coming general elections.

Yesterday, the FNM said that the election was a "farce" and may also have been illegal.

Hanna Dispute With Party

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 12 Feb 87 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER Pindling should be ashamed of himself, Ann's Town MP Arthur Hanna said.

In a letter to PLP chairman Sean McWeeney dated February 7, Mr Hanna accused Sir Lynden of manoeuvring behind-the-scenes to have him rejected as a PLP candidate.

He said that others who are unworthy to challenge his candidacy have been handpicked to do the hatchet job.

•Mr Hanna's nomination comes up before the PLP Council again tonight. The matter was deferred by Council last Thursday after Mr Hanna did not show up. It was the first time that his nomination was not automatically ratified.

But three MPs whom a Commission of Inquiry linked to drug traffickers, notably the Prime Minister's close friend Kendal Nottage, have been re-nominated. Mr Nottage was found to have fronted for a mafia figure/drug trafficker.

If he accepted a public invitation to attend tonight's Council meeting, Mr Hanna wrote that he would have had to listen to "base charges by men the likes of" Brave Davis Sr, a former UBP commander and Percy Munnings, "who is unworthy to challenge my candidacy."

'He learned he had been invited to attend a "hearing," which would "presumably show cause why I should not be a PLP candidate in the next election," from the Press and had not heard a word from the chairman on the matter, he told Mr McWeeney.

Mr Hanna said it was unfortunate that "Mr Pindling" had chosen to deal with him in the manner he has.

"Having recommended me through the candidate's committee, Mr Pindling has apparently arranged to have his supporters, who are many in Council, seek to humiliate me before the Council and the public," he said.

"It is clear that the intention is to reject me finally. This is harsh and unconscionable. Mr Pindling should be ashamed of himself!"

Mr Hanna told Mr McWeeney that he has known what has been happening for some time now.

In 1985, Sir Lynden rejected an invitation by Ann's Town branch officers to attend celebrations marking Mr Hanna's 25th year in Parliament. Among other threats, Sir Lynden said (to use his exact words) "you haven't seen anything yet," the letter says.

This, said Mr Hanna, was a clear message that Sir Lynden intended to destroy him politically, "if he could."

"This whole episode is only a public relations exercise as Mr Pindling never intended that I should have the Ann's Town nomination while he was in charge of the Party and since he is the leader and has the majority support of the party's Council, his intent will prevail," the letter says.

"Mr Pindling seeks to support me publicly but his friends, supporters and hangers-on know better and know what they have to do.

"Why now attempt to drag me through all this? Why treat me worse than the UBPs and other questionable characters who have been considered for nomination?

"If I accepted your public invitation to attend the Council meeting, I would be forced to listen to base charges by men the likes of Mr Brave Davis, who fought me in Cat Island in 1956 and in New Providence in 1960 and the 1962 elections as a Commander of the UBP and did not 'stop being a UBP' until one of my good PLP friends, in exchange for his switch to the PLP, offered to assist in some

financial matters," Mr Hanna's letter says.

"I would also be forced to listen to the likes of Mr Percy Munnings, who is unworthy to challenge my suitability. I would have to endure false statements by Mr Felix 'Mailman' Bowe. Lastly, I would have to endure the attacks of other questionable characters hand-picked for the job."

Mr Hanna said that his defence against bogus charges would not get off the ground because, as Mr McWeeney knows, his replacement has already been chosen, as has the new Centreville candidate. For the present, Charles Major has been selected for Ann's Town and Hartley Saunders for Centreville, his letter said.

Mr Hanna said he learned from ZNS radio/TV and the two newspapers that Mr McWeeney had invited him to attend tonight's meeting.

"I have not heard a word from you on the matter. I have since heard from reliable sources that this is correct. In fact, in all the matters connected with my candidacy radio television and the newspapers

have been used. The announcement of my membership on the Candidate's Committee, the recommendation of that committee and the requirement that I attend to show cause why I should not be allowed to run as a PLP candidate were all serialized on radio, television and the newspapers," he told the chairman.

Mr Hanna found this regrettable because if a member is to be disciplined by the denial of a nomination, under the party's constitution he should be given at least seven clear days notice in writing to answer charges against him and the disciplinary committee should be allowed to investigate these charges. None of this had been afforded to him.

For example, Cooper's Town MP Hubert Ingraham, who was denied a PLP nomination and spent far less years in the party than Mr Hanna, was permitted to present a defence to the Council against charges "brought by many of the same persons who now seek to deny me the party's nomination," Mr Hanna wrote.

Under all the circumstances, he wanted to know: "What purpose to prove how suitable I am?"

Ann's Town has returned Mr

Hanna as the PLP MP with, "by far," the largest majority in New Providence with Centreville following.

Mr Hanna said that he is amongst the best of the PLP MPs and he has loyally and unashamedly represented Ann's Town and the whole country well. He said that he has almost the unanimous support of Ann's Town and the unanimous support of PLP branch members.

Nor has he done anything politically of which anyone can be ashamed, he told Mr McWeeney. Rather, he said that he is the strongest advocate of PLP principles, philosophy, policies and programmes "even to the extent of attempting to bring back and keep Mr Pindling and his government in line with the Party and its noble ideals to which we originally committed ourselves so many years ago."

"The course in which the party is now being steered is not the same course to which I, and others, dedicated our entire adult lives," Mr Hanna's letter says.

The Prime Minister's own "blue ribbon" Commission of Inquiry found that Mr Hanna's integrity "continues unblemished."

PLP MP's Criticism

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 12 Feb 87 pp 1, 12

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

ANN'S Town MP Arthur Hanna is being treated disgracefully, said PLP Centreville MP Perry Christie today.

"The utter contempt that is now being shown him in requiring him to show cause why he should not be nominated must cause PLPs throughout the length and breadth of the Bahamas a deep sense of grief," he said.

The PLP Council would not ratify Mr Hanna's nomination last Thursday, deferring the

matter until tonight so that he could "be present" to hear objection to his candidacy.

Meanwhile, PLP chairman Sean McWeeney said that the question of Mr Christie's candidacy will not be dealt with tonight. The candidates committee, headed by Prime Minister Lynden Pindling, still has not recommended a candidate for Centreville.

"We haven't focused on it. No date has been set. No further consideration has been given to it. There is no great

urgency," Mr McWeeney said.

Asked if the PLP is having trouble finding a candidate for Centreville, he would not comment.

There are now strong indications that the PLP can't find a suitable candidate to replace Mr Christie. The candidates committee had viewed Richard Demeritte, Bahamas High Commissioner to London, as the frontrunner for the nomination, a source said. But Mr Demeritte is now reportedly having second thoughts on the

matter. A number of people, including Attorney General Paul Adderley, have thumbed down the suggestion.

And there are now indications that Sir Lynden may be trying to play some of Mr Christie's Valley Boy supporters against him.

"The way they are treating Mr Hanna is absolutely disgraceful. He was one of the pioneers of the PLP who inspired young men like myself to get involved in politics and his struggles and sacrifices for the PLP are legendary," Mr Christie said.

"I find it incredible that Mr Hanna's nomination could be brought into question against the fact that his reputation and commitment to high standards and integrity in public life is recognized by friend and foe."

Mr Christie said that PLPs must feel a deep sense of grief about the way Mr Hanna is be-

ing treated.

"PLPs like myself must stand firmly by AD Hanna in the face of the unjust treatment against him.

"I got involved in PLP politics many years ago. I did so because I was inspired by the sense of vision and integrity demonstrated by the leadership. But overriding that was the bond which was obvious between the leadership and the people."

Mr Christie said that it was because of the example of men like Mr Hanna that he embarked upon a political career and forged a bond with the people whom he represents.

"I am extremely proud of this relationship with the people in the Centreville constituency and have been assured by them that they are entirely satisfied with my performance on their behalf," he said.

"To publicly humiliate Mr

Hanna and for that matter myself, represents a shift in direction and must be the cause for grave concern among those who hold fast to the original ideals of the PLP."

Mr Christie said it is clear that he is not wanted by the candidates committee and that his contribution to the party has either been forgotten or is not appreciated.

"I am satisfied that no decent Valley Boy will nominate against me, no matter how hard they try to persuade them," he said.

He said that he has served continuously in public life from 1974 until the present time and has devoted all of his adult life to the PLP.

Applicants for the Centreville nomination include Hartley Saunders of the Development Bank, Charlie Major Jr, a PLP officer and Bradley Demeritte, a tennis pro.

FNM Convention Plans

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 12 Feb 87 pp 1, 12

[Text]

THE convention of the official opposition Free National Movement, which will act as the party's springboard into the general elections, has been postponed to a later date. The new date has not yet been set.

It was announced yesterday by Convention Chairman and Montagu MP Orville Turnquest that the conclave would be held from March 17-20, at the Poinciana Arena, Bernard Road.

Originally scheduled to start on March 3, the convention was postponed for various reasons.

However, it has since been discovered that the Young Liberals, the youth arm of the PLP, had also planned to hold their convention on the week of March 17 with television coverage. The FNM will now have to set a new date for its convention, which also will be televised.

In his announcement, Mr Turnquest, who is also the par-

ty's treasurer, said that it will mark the first occasion on which a major political party has hosted a convention in an arena setting.

Mr Turnquest said that careful consideration had been given to the venue and that the consensus was that this setting would perfectly reflect the togetherness of the party in this critical election year.

"Not only will we be meeting in full convention in the heart of at least five New Providence constituencies but in a very real sense we are bringing the convention close to the heart of the people," he said. "That is indicative of the new direction the FNM's 1987 general election campaign will take."

The convention, whenever it is held, is expected to attract close to 5,000 persons on each of the four evening sessions, and will be broadcast live on TV-13 and Radio ZNS from 8pm to 11pm each evening.

Delegates from all 49 electoral constituencies will be taking an active part in the week's proceedings.

The opening address at the convention will be given by the FNM's Deputy Leader Cecil Wallace Whitfield, MP for Pine Ridge, Grand Bahama, who will set the tone of the week's activities and rally delegates and supporters for the thrust into the elections.

The main address on the final night of the convention will be delivered by Party Leader Kendal Isaacs, QC, MP for Delaporte.

Family Island delegates will be housed at the Poinciana Hotel, next door to the arena.

"We see the convention as a springboard into the general elections," Mr Turnquest said. "The convention is not only another opportunity to zero in on the maladministration and corruption of the PLP Government, but also as our party's final national forum for showcasing our candidates and defining the FNM's alternative plans and strategies for the reconstruction of the country when we become the Government."

"As we have designed it, FNM convention 1987 will be moving, dynamic and meaningful. The elections are just around the corner, and it is now or never. In the FNM, we never say never," Mr Turnquest said.⁴

Over the next few weeks, the FNM will announce additional details for the convention.

In the meantime, the convention committee has already set in motion all the wheels for a successful convention.

"We need Bahamians to remember the 1987 convention because it will be the last convention the Free National Movement will hold as the party in Opposition," Mr Turnquest said.

SPECIAL POLICE UNIT TO MONITOR FORCE, CIVIL SERVICE

Commissioner's News Conference

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 27 Jan 87 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

ALLEGATIONS of corruption in the law enforcement agencies and other public services will be rigorously investigated and criminal prosecutions carried out whenever there is sufficient evidence.

Commissioner of Police Gerald Bartlett made this statement at a press conference called this morning to confirm that a Corruption Investigation Unit will be established. The unit will deal with allegations of corruption not only against police officers but against Defence Force, Customs and Immigration departments and other public services.

Mr Bartlett said the unit will begin work within a few weeks and members of the public will know of its findings when they see officers appearing before the courts.

The Commissioner said the public is invited to come forward with information.

Mr Bartlett corrected what he called "inaccurate and misleading information" published in Monday's edition of The Nassau Guardian which stated that a "committee" had been formed.

"The unit is not a committee and no officer will be required to appear within 14 days to answer allegations," the Commissioner said.

However, Mr Bartlett confirmed that the names of the members of the unit are the same as reported by the Guardian.

The unit is headed by Supt Wilton Strachan, Commandant of the Police College, DSP Edwin Stubbs, officer-in-charge of Andros; ASP Dwight Moncur and Chief Insp Vincent Charlton of the Security and Intelligence Branch, Chief Insp Frank Ellis, in charge of Cat Island; Woman Chief Insp Agatha Rodgers of the Prosecutors' Office and Insp Chris McCoy, in charge of South Andros.

"The Corruption Investigation Unit will consist of selected experienced police officers who will carry out investigations into alleged criminal conduct," the Commissioner said.

"No special procedures or powers are necessary as ample powers exist under the law," he said.

"It should be clearly understood that allegations of corruption will be rigorously investigated and criminal prosecutions will be undertaken where there is sufficient evidence to do so," the Commissioner said.

"Public cooperation is a vital factor in dealing with corruption by any public servant and the public should be in no

doubt about the capacity and determination of the police to investigate corruption," he said.

"It is regretted that the information contained in 'The Guardian' was leaked prematurely and it is unfortunate that no attempt was made to confirm the details with myself or other authoritative source," Mr Bartlett said.

The Commissioner was told that the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of National Security, Mr Kendrick Williams, was contacted by The Guardian.

"Mr Kendrick Williams is my Permanent Secretary, it is true, but you must realize that the unit is being formed within the police force and as such I am the Commissioner of Police," he said.

He was also asked whether he felt the selection of a unit from within the force will be effective and have credibility as opposed to a unit from persons who were former police officers of senior rank or maybe even outstanding members of the public.

"Former police officers will not have any authority under the law," the Commissioner said. "The Police Force is the body appointed to investigate crimes in this country."

Asked when the unit will start its work, Mr Bartlett said: "We

hope to do this within another two weeks or so."

The Commissioner was also asked if he thought corruption was widespread in the various departments of government.

"I think there is corruption in the various departments of government, but I wouldn't say it is widespread," the Commissioner replied.

The Commissioner was asked why hadn't the unit been formed earlier having regard to certain recommendations made by the Commission of Inquiry in its report on December 14, 1984.

"This is true but sufficient intelligence has been gathered now and you will find that the unit will have a lot of work to do and a lot of things to go on," Mr Bartlett said.

Asked whether the police is investigating the three Bahamians indicted recently by the United States on drug smuggling charges, Mr Bartlett said:

"As a corruption unit, we will investigate corruption throughout the Bahamas."

"The terms of reference is to investigate reports wherever they come from in the Bahamas," he said.

He said that the unit will report to the Senior Deputy Commissioner of Police Mr Dudley Hanna.

"They will be working under my direction," Mr Hanna said.

Asked whether the unit will ask the public to come forward with information or will base its findings on information gathered by the police, the Commissioner said: "No, this is

what we are asking, that the public come forward with information."

"No force can thrive without information and no force will be successful without the cooperation of the public," the Commissioner said.

The Commissioner said he is satisfied with the selection of the members of the unit who were appointed after consultation with his senior officers.

Asked whether a police officer can investigate an officer of higher rank, the Commissioner said: "A police officer can investigate anyone."

Asked if the public will be informed of the findings of the unit, the Commissioner said: "They will be privy to information when such persons appear before the courts."

TUC Objections

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 29 Jan 87 p 1

[Text]

THE APPOINTMENT of a special police unit to investigate corruption on the Force "means nothing," TUC president Arlington Miller declared today.

"How could you ask senior police officers to investigate themselves?" he demanded.

"If they are going to set up a proper commission, then they're going to have to put proper people on it. How could you have police investigating customs officers and then investigating themselves? Complete nonsense!"

He said that an impartial, independent unit should be formed if it is to be meaningful.

Mr Miller pointed out that

most of the senior police officers who appeared before the Commission of Inquiry said that the person who was accused of doing wrong was the best officer they could find.

He was apparently referring to assistant commissioner of police Howard Smith, who was dismissed from the Force because of the role he played in a raid at Norman's Cay, Exuma, drug trafficking empire. Although he should have been, Colombian kingpin Joe Leher was not taken into custody during the raid.

Mr Miller said that not one customs, immigration or prison officer is on the committee so

"how can it be fair?"

Commissioner of Police Gerald Bartlett said Tuesday that a Corruption Investigative Unit will be established and will deal with allegations of corruption against law enforcement agents.

He said that work will start within a matter of weeks and the public will know of its findings when they see officers appearing before the courts.

Members of the unit are Supt Wilton Strachan, DSP Edwin Stubbs, ASP Dwight Moncur, Chief Insp Vincent Charlton, Chief Insp Frank Ellis, Chief Insp Agatha Rodgers and Insp Chris McCoy.

/9274

CSO, 3298/148

1986 SUGAR EARNINGS REPORTED; BULK FROM EEC SALES

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 4 Feb 87 p 1

[Text]

Barbados gained \$76 million from the sale of its sugar and fancy molasses in 1986, and is hoping to do even better this year.

Agriculture Minister Mr. Warwick Franklin has told the Barbados Advocate that sales to the European Economic Community (EEC) market accounted for the bulk of the earnings.

The \$76 million was nearly \$6 million above the \$70.85 million earned in 1985 and was the highest since 1980 when \$96 million was earned from a crop which had produced 135 000 tonnes of sugar.

Last year's sugar output was put at around 111 000 tonnes which was the best output since 1980. In 1984 earnings were \$59.0 million.

Mr. Franklin expressed the hope that should the current exchange rates for the U.S. dollar continue to decline in relation to the European currencies, then the industry could have higher earnings through sales to the EEC.

The bulk of Barbados' sugar is sold to the United Kingdom under the Lomé trade, aid and co-operation agreement. Some 54 000 tonnes are sold annually.

Last year's price stood about \$891 per tonne.

Although the industry is hoping to maximise earnings from its sale of sugar the chances appear somewhat diminished in view of the U.S. cutback of the Caribbean sugar quota.

The cutback has already cost the industry about \$3 million at a time when Government had to come again to the rescue of the industry.

Two days ago

The 1987 crop started two days ago with harvesting taking place mainly in the eastern and southern areas of the island. Small cane farmers in those areas have also begun harvesting their canes.

Smallholders' Liaison Officer, Mr. Trevor Rudder has said that the Barbados Sugar Industry Limited (BSIL) would again be offering loading services to the small holders.

He said too that production from this sector would again be in the vicinity of 10 per cent of the entire crop. There are about 6 000 small cane farmers.

The crop this year is expected to realise 90 000 tonnes of sugar.

/9274

CSO: 3298/149

BRIEFS

INVITATION TO TAMBO.--Bridgetown, Thursday (CANA)--The leader of the African National Congress (ANC) Oliver Tambo, has been invited to visit Barbados after a trip to Jamaica in July, official sources here said. The invitation has come from Prime Minister Errol Barrow. Both Barrow's ruling Democratic Labour Party (DLP) and Michael Manley's opposition People's National Party (PNP) in Jamaica have recently been strengthening their links with the ANC as part of a general programme of support to end the system of apartheid in South Africa. Tambo, who shared a platform at a rally in New York last month with Manley, is expected to arrive in Jamaica on July 4. Two days later he is due to be in Barbados. Barbados' Ambassador to the United Nations, Dame Nita Barrow works closely with the anti-apartheid committee at UN headquarters in New York. Dame Nita was a member of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group that had travelled to South Africa last year and made recommendations for the dismantling of apartheid and the establishment in South Africa of a non-racial representative government. The group's report was unanimously endorsed by the Caricom Summit in Georgetown last July. [Text] [Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 13 Feb 87 p 17] /9274

SPANISH ENVOY.--The first-ever Spanish Ambassador to be accredited to Barbados, Mr Juan Lugo, held wide-ranging talks with Prime Minister, Mr Errol Barrow on Thursday. Among some of the areas discussed were bilateral relations, fishing, Spanish tourism to Barbados, and reciprocal trade. Ambassador Lugo, who is also accredited to Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, St Lucia and St Vincent, spoke of the importance his country attaches to the Eastern Caribbean countries, and hinted of the possible development of two-way trade between Spain and the region. The Spanish envoy told the Prime Minister that he was looking forward to Barbados' participation, maybe within a Caribbean block of countries, in Spain's summer fair of Seville in 1992. This is an exposition marking the fifth centenary of the discovery of the Caribbean by Spain's Christopher Columbus. [Text] [Bridgetown THE SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 8 Feb 87 p 3] /9274

CSO: 3298/149

BRIEFS

BEEF SALES, PRODUCTION--Barbados is willing to buy three million pounds of beef annually from Belize which cannot meet the challenge immediately, according to Belize Agriculture Minister Dean Lindo. Mr Lindo said his Barbados counterpart, Mr Warwick Franklin was firm in his commitment to purchase beef from Belize. He said that they had worked out an arrangement for a gradual increase in Belizean exports to Barbados. Belize in 1986 exported 427,000 pounds of beef to Barbados, Jamaica and the United States, compared to exports totalling 265,000 pounds the previous year. Barbados bought 181,000 pounds, Jamaica 30,000 pounds and the rest was sold in the Florida area of the United States. The cattle population of Belize is now 50,000 heads. The chief veterinarian in the Belize Ministry of Agriculture, Dr Balmore Silva, has said there is a reproductive rate of 1,000 animals a year. But he said that some smuggling of cattle from Belize to Mexico along the border areas of the two countries has reduced the projected increase in the cattle population here. [Text] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 9 Feb 87 p 2] /9274

CSO, 3298/150

FAR ARTILLERY SCHOOL RATING UPGRADED TO 'SATISFACTORY'

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 22 Jan 87 pp 4-7

[Article by Cesar Gomez Chacon]

[Excerpts] Perhaps the old proverb "Every cloud has a silver lining" seems a little hard to accept, but it sums up in a nutshell just what happened at the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) Cmdr Camilo Cienfuegos Artillery School. In May 1985 an inspection team from the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (MINFAR) decided to give the work of this center an overall "unsatisfactory" rating. Nineteen months later, in December 1986, the school had attained a "satisfactory" rating after a new inspection by the superior command. The principal difficulties pointed out on the first occasion had been eradicated almost completely.

To understand the work carried out at the Artillery School during that time, let us look at the principal deficiencies detected on the first visit of the inspection team.

As one might expect, the fundamental factors that affected the educational process--the school's *raison d'etre*--were subjective in nature: a lack of cohesion between the leadership of the Military Training Centers (CEM) and the schools, and between the latter and the small units (the faculty); the fact that the top echelons were out of touch with the rank and file; and the failure of these leaders and the Party to meet the needs of the students, the faculty, and the other workers at the center.

As a result of the neglect of key factors in the learning process, the material base and practice equipment had become obsolete, or did not meet the required technical or scientific level.

The same was true of most facilities on the campus: Classrooms, dormitories, and ranges all left much to be desired. In addition, as a logical consequence, there were problems in the military discipline and training of the cadets.

The most disturbing aspect of all was the fact that these and many other difficulties began to be regarded as the norm; people learned to live with bad

habits as if nothing were wrong. The "unsatisfactory" rating by the MINFAR team snapped them out of this dangerous lethargy.

"It was necessary to deal with the deficiencies without wasting time," recalls Col Rene Perez Llera, current head of the school. "For this reason, along with the plan of measures left by the superior command, which included replacing part of the administrative staff, both in the central administration and in the faculty, a variety of tasks were designed for immediate implementation.

"In the first place, we had to begin a process to attract people's attention, to close the gap that had formed and explain to the masses in the unit where we intended to go with our work. The political work was designed to change the mentality of the student, the manager, the teacher, the worker; to demonstrate that we were all responsible and were all indispensable elements in the activity of the center as a whole.

"That has been the greatest accomplishment of these last months!" concludes Perez Llera. "We achieved what the commander in chief has been calling for in recent times: mobilizing the staff on the basis of political work, appealing to their consciences and to their sense of revolutionary honor."

After the first battle with individuals was won, another equally difficult battle began: that of revolutionizing working methods, hardware, and the material base of study, and reviving discipline and regulatory order.

They used what we all call a "driving force," which we sometimes have trouble getting started. Emulation, represented in the movement for the 25th anniversary of the school's founding, got even the least enthusiastic people going. Classrooms, methodological laboratories, faculty offices, and dormitories began to compete to win the "vencedores" [victors] sign to put on their door.

Lt Col Jose R. Mayea Brana, first professor of Political Work and Party, recalls: "The movement was supported by the management, the Party, and the Union of Young Communists (UJC) at all levels. In our case, each faculty member was assigned a classroom or laboratory for which he was responsible. The command would supply the construction materials, the paint, etc., and we would provide the ideas and the manpower: the cadets and anyone who was willing to help us, of course.

"Everyone worked very enthusiastically during off hours, without interfering with the educational process. A classroom would be painted in the morning, for example, and that afternoon it might be used for classes. The groups not only worked ceaselessly, but sometimes faculty and cadets even brought masonry, carpentry, electrical, and painting equipment from home."

The enhancement of discipline, regulatory order, and the military training of all the personnel at the center was also a painstaking task that is still going on. The improvement of living and studying conditions raised standards for organization and cleanliness in the living quarters, classrooms, and other areas, as well as the care of social property.

At present it is obvious that there have been improvements in keeping to the daily schedule, in observing military courtesy, conduct and appearance, and in maintaining the quality of education. The new hardware that was brought in is cared for and used in the specified manner.

In this regard, another initiative played a decisive role: a 10-day course for management, officers, and faculty on the regulations and infantry instruction.

"It was not easy at first," recalls the head of the CEM. "There were comrades who even took offense when they were told they had to take the course. They had been in the FAR a long time and felt that there was nothing new for them to learn there. They were convinced of the need to 'refresh' their knowledge.

"Afterwards, by the end of the course, they proved us right. Much of what they had learned about 20 years ago was obsolete."

Col Rene Perez Llera, for his part, said before taking leave of us: "There is one fundamental aspect without which it would have been difficult to achieve all of the goals we set for ourselves. I am referring to the help of the superior command. We received both material and moral support. Even the chief of the General Staff took a personal interest in the school; his visits and phone calls became increasingly frequent."

The collective of the Artillery School united and turned the reversal into a victory. Nonetheless, they still have some problems to solve: the organization of the food service and hygiene in the mess halls has not improved sufficiently. The same is true of the material base of study, which still has a different record of the means to ensure the educational process. Nor is the weaponry specialty exempt from problems.

For this reason, and because the "battle" has just begun, as many people at the Cmdr Camilo Cienfuegos FAR Artillery School assert, we are convinced that in a short time these deficiencies will also be eradicated. They already know how to change the "bad" to "good" there . . .

8926

CSO: 3248/214

FOREIGN MINISTER CALLS FOR DEBT RENEGOTIATION

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 23 Jan 87 pp 1, 14

[Article by Mirtilio Feliz Pena]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Donald Reid Cabral stated yesterday that the Dominican Republic is not in a position to pay its foreign debt "under the present circumstances," noting that the Dominican Government has a higher, more urgent duty, to achieve a positive growth rate in order to satisfy the vital and minimal needs of the population.

He added that the basic problem in the Dominican Republic is unemployment, which amounts to about 26 percent of the workforce.

He said that if various forms of underemployment are taken into account, this rate rises above 40 percent, "which is plainly frustrating and intolerable for an incipient democracy like ours."

Reid Cabral gave a speech in Mexico City on the occasion of the special Conference of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLA).

Referring to the Dominican foreign debt, the foreign minister stated that the nation "is willing to honor" its commitment to its creditors, "but is incapable of doing so under the present circumstances."

He recalled that the Dominican Republic underwent rigorous adjustment programs, which he said produced some positive results, but also had "their negative effects."

He indicated that we have seen our real gross domestic product fall, both at the national and per capita levels; the productive apparatus has been disrupted, especially in the important agriculture-livestock sector; and expectations for inflation and devaluation have become entrenched, favoring speculative rather than productive activities.

Finally, unemployment, functional illiteracy, infant mortality, and emigration to the cities and abroad have all increased.

"In view of this situation, we wonder what good those adjustment programs did. Did they serve to change the national accounting statistics in the short term, or did they really transform the productive structures, adapting them to meet future requirements? Are these future requirements still valid today?" asked the Dominican foreign minister.

Growing Economy

Reid Cabral asserted that to pay its foreign debt, the first thing the Dominican Republic needs is a stable, growing economy that is on the road to integral development, in step with the technological changes the world is experiencing today.

He noted that the debt service must be adjusted to our real payment possibilities in the short and medium terms, this being a function of our productive effort, of the international terms of trade, and of the domestic policies of the industrialized countries.

He argued that in no way "can we continue to be net exporters of capital."

He pointed out that for this reason, the debt service should be reduced in the short term and the amortization period should be lengthened, in exchange for a greater flow of stable and permanent trade, as well as the fulfillment of the debt service in the long term.

"We are not asking for privileges; we are demanding a right, in exchange for meeting our obligations as a nation. We are not asking for special treatment; we are hoping for the best possible renegotiation terms," he said.

The foreign minister observed that the guarantee that this commitment will be fulfilled lies in the political will of the Dominican Government to make the most rational possible use of its limited internal and external resources.

He indicated that the debt service will depend on the flow of fresh external resources from financial institutions, on the behavior of the terms of trade for the products we export, and on the real interest rates that prevail on the international money markets.

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CSO: 3248/204

BALAGUER CALLS FOR GRACE PERIOD IN DEBT PAYMENTS

Santo Domingo EL NACIONAL in Spanish 12 Jan 87 p 16

[Article by Luis Dalmau D.]

[Excerpt] President Joaquin Balaguer called for a grace period and a reduction of interest rates for the payment of the republic's foreign debt, which he said amounts to \$4.2 billion.

Dr Balaguer declared in this regard that "the central government under the previous administration contracted debts amounting to \$4.2 billion, and it cannot pay them because either the interest rates are too high or the terms are too short."

He indicated yesterday, during his visit to El Seibo, that "the government therefore needs a grace period, a reduction of interest rates, and softer terms in order to make this debt payable."

Addressing a group of sharecroppers from the community of Pedro Sanchez, the leader stated that "you are in the same boat; don't be ashamed that you owe money to the Agricultural Bank, because you are in the same position as the government, which needs a readjustment of its debts."

Balaguer also said that his administration "needs a grace period, lower interest rates, and all kinds of facilities, Moreover, credit should not be suspended just because it has debts. If you cannot get new loans, you have your hands tied and will not be able to work your land. The result would be the most frightening poverty."

The chief of state met with sharecroppers and ranchers of Pedro Sanchez, where a livestock project in El Seibo is located.

He arrived in the company of government officials, including the director of the Dominican Agrarian Institute, agronomist Jaime Rodriguez Guzman. Dr Balaguer has instructed Rodriguez Guzman to provide more assistance to local farmers.

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CSO: 3248/204

BALAGUER SAYS FOREIGN DEBT 'UNPAYABLE'

Santo Domingo EL NACIONAL in Spanish 14 Jan 87 p 17

[Text] President Joaquin Balaguer stated yesterday that the government will not accept any conditions imposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) if they require the Dominican Republic to pay its foreign debt on terms that are beyond the capacity of this country.

The chief of state indicated that his government, like those of most Latin American countries, does desire to pay the debt, "but we want to pay it on honorable terms, under conditions which do not compromise the Dominican Republic's development or bring it to the brink of a social conflict of immeasurable dimensions."

Dr Balaguer declared that the Dominican foreign debt "has grown enormously in the last few years, during the terms of the Dominican Revolutionary Party."

He recalled that when he left office in 1978, the public foreign debt of the central government was just over 200 million pesos, in addition to "other small debts owed by the decentralized agencies, such as the Dominican Electricity Corporation, which underwent a tremendous crisis after the 1973 oil price hike."

"During the administrations of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, the debt grew as loans were obtained from international credit institutions such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank, the Agency for International Development, etc., and also through negotiations with commercial banks that loaned money at usurious rates," he said.

Among these international loans, Dr Balaguer cited the one negotiated by the government of the late President Antonio Guzman. That credit, amounting to \$185 million, was obtained on European markets, and still "represents an onerous burden for the country," he said.

The leader pointed out that this debt was contracted with "extremely high" interest rates, "and it is still being paid off; we have paid the sum of the debt several times over, and yet the country is still deeply in debt because of a commitment that was made in an irregular, improper, and absurd manner

during a time when the country could have developed on the basis of its own resources and those provided by domestic savings."

Dr Balaguer spoke in an interview which he granted to the ECO Agency, and which was broadcast by satellite to the Spanish-speaking communities of the United States, Mexico, and various Latin American countries. The interview was televised here in this country on the state channel last Sunday.

In that interview, the president touched on matters related to the foreign debt, the Central American conflict, relations with Haiti, agrarian reform, and other issues.

Going further into the matter of the Dominican foreign debt, Dr Balaguer stated that it totals about \$4 billion.

He noted that, compared to the debts of Brazil, Mexico, Venezuela, and other developed countries, "this is a pittance, but for us it is an unbearable burden, an incredible thing that is beyond the ken of all Dominicans, as well as beyond the means of our country."

"Four billion dollars is an intolerable burden for the Dominican economy," he said.

He recalled that "I have stated that this debt is unpayable, that we are not willing to accept any conditions imposed by the International Monetary Fund if they force us, as they forced the previous administration, during the latter years of the last government, to pay the debt on terms that are beyond our capacity."

"We demand, therefore, that the debt be paid; we want to pay it, just as all Latin American countries want to pay. But we want to pay it on honorable terms, under conditions which do not compromise the Dominican Republic's development or bring it to the brink of a social conflict of immeasurable dimensions," stated Dr Balaguer.

The ECO Agency interviewer remarked that the Peruvian Government has stated it will not pay more than 10 percent of its import earnings, and asked how the Dominican Republic will pay or not pay its debt.

In this regard, the president of the republic responded that "we are willing to pay, and we have already paid part of our debt."

He cited the fact that "a short time ago the World Bank was paid for a small debt amounting to \$11 million that had fallen due. It was the most urgent priority because it was the only debt about to fall due, and it posed the only obstacle to our reaching new agreements with the World Bank and new disbursements from that banking institution for other loans that had been contracted with it."

Dr Balaguer said that the country has also made "contacts with the Paris Group and with the U.S. Government, especially the Agency for International

Development, to seek adjustments, new adjustments for the payment of the public debt."

"We do want to pay the public debt; we are aware that we must pay it. But we need softer terms, terms that are more feasible for the Dominican people, terms that will not strangle us, that will not hem us in, that will not make our life impossible. We need terms that enable our government to develop, that enable us to expand our own resources and, under the auspices of that development, to meet our international commitments. These commitments are sacred to us, and we want to fulfill them, but I repeat, fulfill them on terms that are feasible for the country and also beneficial to the creditors themselves," he said.

8926

CS0: 3248/204

PCD CALLS FOR SUSPENSION OF DEBT PAYMENTS

Santo Domingo EL NACIONAL in Spanish 16 Jan 87 p 6

[Article by Luis Dalmau D.]

[Text] The Dominican Communist Party (PCD) suggested that President Joaquin Balaguer adopt new economic strategies to respond to the policy of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the financial adjustments.

The political committee of the PCD said in a document that the appropriate thing to do is to annul the IMF adjustments "and replace the antipopular and antinational economic policy derived from them with a new strategy, which would include the suspension of payments on the debt."

It also stated that foreign exchange should be obtained from tourism and remittances from Dominicans living abroad, that the undervaluation of exports should be eliminated, and that the repatriation of dividends by foreign companies should be suspended.

It went on to suggest that the government diversify the country's trade relations, prohibit luxury imports, enforce agrarian legislation, and use all these resources to bring down the prices of food, raise wages, invest in development projects, combat unemployment, and carry out agrarian reform.

The communist organization led by Narciso Isa Conde stated that "the new IMF mission does not need to choose new adjustments, because those adjustments were imposed before it arrived in the country."

And it added that "clearly the IMF mission which is visiting the country will not advocate new adjustments; to a certain extent, the suggested adjustments have already been applied. The ones imposed under Jorge Blanco are still intact, and the ones dictated by the new Balaguer administration have been added to them."

Among these adjustments it cited the elimination of subsidies, massive layoffs in the public administration and state enterprises, and the austerity plan.

It argued that there is no reason to negotiate new adjustments with the international organization.

The PCD asserted that "the IMF came primarily to oversee and to exert pressure for continued payment of part of the debt service; for this purpose, new sacrifices have already been demanded of the population; now the creditors are trying to collect as much as possible, and on that point the strife has already begun."

It warned that the International Monetary Fund may even favor another renegotiation of the foreign debt, "but within that renegotiation it will try to exert pressure, along with the Club of Paris and the international private banks, to make this country continue paying at a certain rate. The haggling has already begun to determine what that rate will be."

"That is why Dr Balaguer, echoing Fidel in his own way, has said that under the present circumstances this debt is unpayable," stated the PCD.

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CSO: 3248/204

CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR TERMS DOMINICAN DEBT 'UNPAYABLE'

Santo Domingo EL NACIONAL in Spanish 10 Jan 87 p 31

[Article by Luis Dalmau D.]

[Excerpts] The governor of the Central Bank asserted yesterday that the Dominican Republic's foreign debt is "unpayable," and that the country is forever tied "to the inclemency of creditors from all latitudes."

Luis Julian Perez said that the republic is staggering under the greed and ambition of both nationals and foreigners, and that "corruption is rampant at all levels and sectors."

He also reiterated that the economy and the financial situation are beginning to regain their footing, so that "where disorder and distortions prevailed, now we have rules of conduct, confidence, and credibility."

He indicated that we have been "placed in the uncomfortable position of having to face a number of creditors of all nationalities and origins, who are demanding that the government and the country pay their debts."

"Apparently this was my fate," he noted, "not to have personal debts, but to have to face, in a way, the debts of the entire nation."

Julian Perez spoke on the occasion of being awarded the degree of doctor honoris causa at the School of Juridical Sciences of the Central University of the East (UCE).

The official also stated that "an unpayable foreign debt that Dominicans never dreamed of is now tying us forever to the inclemency of creditors from all latitudes; production has stagnated, and peasant youths are flocking to the cities or are striking out to sea in yawls and small boats, braving the dangers of the Mona Passage, at the cost of hundreds of lives which could serve their homeland if they would just put their bravery and intrepidity to better use."

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CSO: 3248/204

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

1986 GOVERNMENT REVENUE ESTIMATED AT 2.4 BILLION PESOS

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 3 Jan 87 p 1

[Article by Jose Romero]

[Text] The government closed out last year with approximately 2.395 billion pesos in fiscal revenues, according to unofficial statistics.

This is only 5 million pesos short of the estimate contained in the Budget of Revenues and Law on Public Spending, the bill submitted to Congress by the Executive Branch for 1987.

Unofficial sources estimate that in the next few days, when the so-called reconciliation of budget figures takes place, the close of the year will confirm the amount of that budget.

For 1987, the Executive Branch has projected that 40 percent of the total budget of 2.4 billion pesos will be spent on public investment. The entire budget surplus is also expected to be spent discretionally by the Executive Branch.

It is reported that among the largest sources of fiscal revenues are domestic taxes on goods (nearly 700 million pesos), export taxes (about 160 million pesos), income taxes (some 500 million pesos), and import taxes (some 600 million pesos).

By the close of the year, it is expected that a total of about 2 billion pesos of the executed budget will have been spent to cover current expenses.

A source at the Secretariat of Finance stated yesterday that the 1987 budget execution is expected to be different, because public investment in projects and capital goods will increase tremendously.

The source said that the budget style of President Joaquin Balaguer is such that the leader generates monthly surpluses, which are applied to the next month.

It was also reported that in the last 3 months of the year, a significant change was noted in the execution of the budget, in that the amount earmarked for current projects remained the same, but it was distributed in such a way that projects which were inactive are now being dealt with.

AUG-DEC 1986 BUDGET SURPLUS TOTALS 500 MILLION PESOS

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 4 Jan 87 pp 1, 9

[Article by Jose Romero]

[Text] The Central Government has finished the year with an impressive level of budgetary savings achieved by President Joaquin Balaguer. Between August and December, this surplus was an estimated 500 million pesos.

Current savings, that is, the difference between spending and current income, resulted in a surplus at the end of the month.

Unofficial sources say that the previous government maintained an average of about 16 million pesos a month in current savings.

When Balaguer took office, he managed to achieve a savings of 45 million pesos in just 15 days, half the month of August, although he found approximately half that amount.

The following month, current savings amounted to 40 million pesos; they were 85 million in October, 121 million in November, and almost 100 million in December.

It is believed that by eliminating the subsidies formerly paid to the autonomous and decentralized sectors, such as the State Sugar Council, the National Institute of Price Stabilization (INESPRE), and the Dominican Electricity Corporation (CDE), the Central Government has been able to avail itself of all resources for its investment plans.

In addition, savings on wages and salaries, fuel expenditures, travel expenses, and other items, as well as other spending cuts account for this trend.

This austerity policy has eliminated the need to make so-called current transfers, which had become common practice in executing the budget. In other words, funds were transferred from one side to another.

Unofficial sources estimate that by the close of the year, when the bank accounts are reconciled, total revenues for the period will amount to 2.5 billion pesos.

One week before the end of last year, total revenues reached 2.116 billion pesos. The top source of revenues was the General Customs Office, with 685 million pesos, including 578 million pesos in import duties and 105 million pesos in export duties.

The Income Tax Office contributed nearly 490 million pesos, with the share attributed to the Tax on the Transfer of Industrialized Goods (IBTI) amounting to 100 million, and that of the Treasury 565 million. Of these Treasury funds, 50 million pesos came from Rosario Dominicana, 450 million from the Dominican Petroleum Refinery (fuel differential), and 70 million from other sources.

External revenues were estimated at 370 million pesos as of mid-December, including internal revenues of 8 million from the sale of land, etc., and 360 million in external revenues.

Coincidentally, unofficial sources noted that fiscal revenues rose by approximately 575 million pesos, or about 30 percent, from one year to the next, which is precisely equal to the amount of the exchange surcharge in 1985. This means that for the purposes of fiscal revenues, the government offset the elimination of the surcharge, although in monetary terms the Central Bank did not demonetize.

Fiscal revenues are expected to grow at a rate of 15 percent in 1987, which could mean a final total of 2.8 billion pesos instead of the projected 2.4 billion pesos.

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CSO: 3248/203

PENA, JORGE AGREE ON PRD REORGANIZATION

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 22 Jan 87 p 4

[Article by Rafael G. Santana]

[Excerpt] Dr Jose Francisco Pena Gomez stated last night that he has reached an agreement with Dr Salvador Jorge Blanco for the reorganization of the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD).

Dr Pena Gomez and former President Jorge Blanco met for about 20 minutes.

The meeting between the former chief of state, Dr Jorge Blanco, and the president of the PRD, Dr Pena Gomez, took place at the former's residence.

"We talked about the party, and we reached an agreement on the reorganization of the PRD," stated Dr Pena Gomez.

He explained that the unification and reorganization of the PRD will go ahead no matter what.

"I am taking into account all the currents of thought in the party; I really do not want to do this alone," contended the PRD leader.

Pena Gomez reported that all the labor factions of the PRD have met, and will release a communique outlining their position.

"Today, for example, there was a party meeting of all the trade union sectors of the PRD, the two wings of the General Union of Dominican Workers (UGTD), the CTC, and the movements of independent drivers. A Unified Trade Union Coordinating Committee was formed, comprising all the labor groups in the PRD," he said.

Pena Gomez explained that he is doing the work of reorganizing the PRD because the other leaders "have not gone."

"So what happened is that I did it on my own because the other leaders of the PRD had not gone," he stressed.

The former district trustee expressed the desire for all PRD leaders to work together on the reorganization of the party.

"Clearly I would rather do it with the other leaders, but this is going to be done no matter what," contended Pena Gomez.

He called upon all factions of the PRD to strive for party unity.

8926

CS0: 3248/204

PRD DEPUTY SUPPORTS ARREST OF CORRUPT OFFICERS

Santo Domingo EL NACIONAL in Spanish 24 Jan 87 p 3

[Article by Luis Cespedes Pena]

[Text] Santiago--Victor Mendez believes that prosecuting a former secretary of the Armed Forces and a former chief of police will not create any disturbance in military institutions if the trials are not part of a political persecution.

Mendez, a former trustee and deputy for the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), stated that "the prophylactic effort is important in all state institutions, if it is done for the sole purpose of increasing the morality of their activities."

He added that what could be harmful to the country is the political persecution of certain individuals who rendered services in state institutions.

He added that each defendant must defend himself against the charges filed by the authorities.

He explained that the military should be subject to government oversight, because it is part of the state.

Mendez stated that the legal action should be aimed at cleaning up the operation of state institutions, not at politically persecuting certain people.

He indicated that if the courts determine that the accused committed the acts alleged by the authorities, then they must defend themselves against such accusations.

He observed that the process of improving morality in government is supported by all national sectors, "but what the country will not tolerate is the authorities' beginning a process of political persecution cloaked in the mantle of corruption."

He went on to say that no one in this country opposes cleaning up the institutions of the state, because that activity benefits the democratic process that is taking place in the Dominican Republic.

"I do not believe that prosecuting former Secretary of the Armed Forces Manuel Antonio Cuervo Gomez or former Police Chief Juan Jose Rodriguez Ortiz will jeopardize the democratic process."

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CS0: 3248/203

FOUR GENERALS ARRESTED, CHARGED WITH CORRUPTION

Santo Domingo EL NACIONAL in Spanish 24 Jan 87 p 2

[Excerpt] For the first time in the Dominican Republic, at least since the eradication of the tyranny of Rafael L. Trujillo, four former generals are being held at the same time in a civilian prison, on orders from a civilian official.

This is not the first time, however, that a group of former generals has been detained at the same time and confined in military or police quarters.

But there is a big difference: In the latter case, the retired generals were arrested for purely political reasons, and civilians were also involved in those cases.

Today retired Gens Manuel Antonio Cuervo Gomez (former secretary of the Armed Forces), Juan Jose Rodriguez Ortiz (former chief of the National Police), and Eleodoro Berroa Contreras and Ganimedes Ramirez (both former police superintendents) are being held in preventive detention at the La Fe Addition.

Retired Col Ricardo Batista Hernandez and former 1st Lt Manuel Gil Medina, both of the National Army, are also being held.

They are all accused of committing crimes in the purchase of various goods and equipment for the Armed Forces and the National Police, according to files prepared by those institutions and sent to Prosecutor Prim Pujals.

In addition, a complaint-accusation was filed by attorney Marino Vinicio Castillo (Vinchito), president of the National Progressive Force. This document was withdrawn from the court record by former Attorney General Julio Cesar Castanos Espailat, who sent part to the Armed Forces. The remainder of the document was sent to the prosecutor by Castanos Espailat's successor, Ramon Gonzalez Hardy.

Prosecutor Pujals issued a subpoena against a civilian mentioned in the file, Mr Juan Tomas Pena Valentin. Pena Valentin is hospitalized at the Cardiovascular Center in this city, however, suffering from gastrointestinal disorders; he is under police guard. Pena Valentin was the president of several companies that sold goods to military and police officials.

Also named in the file are former President Salvador Jorge Blanco and Budget Adviser Leonel Almonte. No subpoena has been issued against them, but the prosecutor has implied that they will be called during the trial.

PUNISHMENT OF CORRUPT OFFICIALS ADVOCATED

Santo Domingo EL CARIBE in Spanish 31 Jan 87 p 10

[Editorial: "A Historical Imperative"]

[Text] The punishment of those who have committed acts of corruption is unarguably a necessary prerequisite for any effort to moralize Dominican society. And there are those who feel that this step is an imperative of this point in history.

There is a very strong sentiment in this country that if those responsible for the worst wave of corruption in national history--and that is no hyperbole--are not duly punished, the Dominican people will lose their faith in the system of representative democracy. And to explain that belief, it is argued that those who have endured endless personal suffering not only feel duped by those to whom they entrusted public administration, but they might also succumb to political ventures that could very well leave the country with a noose around its neck.

It is obvious that under these circumstances, those who, for reasons of compassion, political interest, or a very strange pragmatism, or even for fear that they themselves will be punished, spend their time looking for explanations, justifications, or excuses for the incredible, systematic despoiling of the national patrimony during the 1982-86 constitutional term are doing a disservice to both the country and themselves.

In the first place, unless there are abuses that violate due process, there is no reason to fear the investigations and judicial prosecutions that have begun.

In the second place, only if the law is openly violated in the effort to punish those who have been accused of various crimes can one reasonably speak of political vengeance.

But if it is proven, observing due process of law, who was really responsible for the sacking of the National Treasury, for obtaining illicit gains, for smuggling, for granting or receiving undue exemptions, for laundering money and engaging in drug trafficking, then what we will have is justice, pure and simple.

What need is there to succumb to the temptation to persecute someone unjustly, when the clear and exemplary provisions of the Penal Code are available to anyone who, inspired by a well-founded thirst for justice, responsibly denounces corruption and calls for the punishment of the corrupt individuals, as well as their partners and cohorts?

When the law is enforced properly by those who have a constitutional mandate to do so, there can be no confusion with the crass vengeance of those hateful souls who are possessed of sick passions.

The law came before the crimes committed by the venal politicians and negligent citizens who sullied themselves from head to toe in the cesspool of corruption. In no way is it a selectively applied a posteriori concept to punish only those who impoverished the country, discredited it, and scoffed at it to satisfy their insatiable greed between 1982 and 1986.

Therefore, the only ones who should be concerned--and with good reason--are those who have committed crimes.

8926

CS0: 3248/203

VICE PRESIDENT MEETS WITH UK FOREIGN OFFICIAL

PA131806 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 Feb 87

[Passages within quote marks recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] In a special working meeting, Vice President Blasco Penaherrera Padilla and Baroness Janet Lady Young, British deputy secretary for foreign affairs, analyzed the various development projects in which Great Britain could cooperate.

[Penaherrera] [broadcast in progress] "...not only to express our welcome and appreciation but also to discuss practical matters that will intensify the great relations with your government and people to contribute to promote our country's development [words indistinct]."

[Announcer] Osvaldo Davila, secretary general of planning of the National Development Council, CONADE, also told the British official about the projects that require British credits or investments.

[Davila] "The [words indistinct] project deals with something that could be of mutual interest to the United Kingdom and Ecuador. These include the [name indistinct] river irrigation project. We are also advancing on another project [words indistinct]."

[Announcer] He also brought up the projects that require technological cooperation. These include organization and development of stable markets, mining prospecting in the eastern cordillera, studies on fishing prospects, and development and promotion of Ecuador for European tourists. They also discussed technical support from Britain for the national program to eliminate bureaucratization. For this purpose, all the members of the coordinating commission involved in this program were present in the meeting. Lady Young said that the program for a good and efficient administration is very interesting and that a similar program is being implemented in her country.

/9604

CSO: 3348/215

BRIEFS

BAIL REQUEST FOR VARGAS--Retired General Gonzalo Fernandez, president of the Military Court of Justice is examining the verdict rendered by that tribunal's prosecutor, Mario Cisneros, regarding the request for bail on behalf of General Frank Vargas Pazzos presented by his lawyers. It has been revealed that the prosecutor gave his verdict on Thursday, but the decision will not be revealed until the President of the Court has given it due consideration. Military Court sources revealed that the court's president will pronounce sentence on Monday, 16 February. [Text] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 15 Feb 87] /9604

NEW PARTY SETS POLITICAL PROGRAM--The new People's Party No 16 [Partido del Pueblo numero 16] has presented its political program in which it states that the party's ideologies are based on four great principles: real democracy, independent economic development, social justice, and national independence. The party hopes to build a real democracy with the ample participation of the people by allowing them to participate in the making of political decisions and in the development of those decisions. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 31 Jan 87] /9604

OIL RESERVES INCREASE--The country's proven oil reserves are 1.148 billion barrels, as 665 million more barrels were found during the current administration, the Energy and Mines minister has said. According to statistics from the National Directorate of Hydrocarbos, in 1972 Ecuador's oil reserves were 1.5 billion barrels, however the accumulated consumption from that year to 1986 was 1.016 billion barrels. The original reserves then dropped to 484 million barrels. If we add this amount to the 665 million barrels found during the current administration, we obtain the amount of 1.148 billion barrels. However, the Energy and Mines minister failed to mention that the incorporation of reserves was not only made during the current administration. Findings had been made before August 1984. [Text] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 11 Feb 87] /9604

INCREASED PETROLEUM SALE--The Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corporation, CEPE, has increased to 144,000 barrels a day the amount of crude oil that it exports through long-term contracts when yesterday is signed agreements with a British company and two U.S. companies. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 Feb 87] /9604

CSO: 3348/213

NNP FACTIONS IN TALKS TO RESOLVE INTERNAL DISSENSION

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 25 Feb 87 p 19

[Text]

ST GEORGE'S, Tuesday (CANA) — High-level discussions are being held among the warring factions of Grenada's ruling New National Party (NNP) in a bid to resolve a crisis within the two-year-old coalition government, Public Utilities Minister Keith Mitchell said.

Mitchell told CANA those involved in the discussions were himself, Prime Minister Herbert Blaize, Labour Minister Francis Alexis, Education Minister George Brizan, Local Government Minister George McGuire, and junior Minister for Legal Affairs Tillman Thomas.

Mitchell, the NNP general secretary, said the first round of discussions were held last week, with chairman of the NNP Larry Joseph acting as the mediator. The second meeting is scheduled for later this week.

Mitchell said the differences among the top NNP leaders were not ideological.

Mitchell and McGuire are among eight NNP MP's who signed a statement last week pledging loyalty to Blaize, following reports of an attempted palace coup to unseat the ailing 69-year old Prime Minister.

Alexis, Brizan, and Thomas declined to sign the statement on the grounds that they did not have any input in the drafting of the document which was done by Mitchell.

Alexis and Brizan are regarded by some political analysts as the leaders of a faction opposed to Blaize's alleged autocratic style of leadership.

The NNP has been hit by deep internal division since winning the December 1984 general elections which restored constitutional government here after five years of non-elected Marxist rule.

/9274

CSO: 3298/151

OPPOSITION LEADER ST LOUIS DISAVOWS MOVE AGAINST PETERS

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 23 Feb 87 p 16

[Text]

ST GEORGE'S, Sunday (CANA-Reuter) — Newly-appointed Grenada opposition leader Phinsley St Louis today denied that he and another opposition member Kenny Lalsingh conspired to remove Marcel Peters from the leadership position.

St Louis told CANA the issue was discussed with Peters who resigned last week as leader of the parliamentary opposition.

Peters had earlier accused the two other opposition members of being interested only in power.

According to St Louis, both himself and Lalsingh had asked Peters since last October to set up a work programme in order for the two of them to work with him in Parliament.

"Peters never called a meeting with us. Lalsingh and myself pointed this out to him earlier in the month and suggested to him that he needed to handle the opposition in a more constructive way."

"We were left with no alternative because Grenada needs, particularly at this time, strong and vibrant opposition to protect and defend the rights and privileges of the Grenadian people," he said.

St Louis and Lalsingh are former members of the ruling New National Party (NNP) while Peters heads the small Grenada Democratic Labour Party (GDLP).

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CS0; 3298/151

BLAIZE BUDGET CRITICIZED BY OPPOSITION, MBPM LEADERS

Radix Comments

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 23 Feb 87 p 17

[Text]

ST GEORGE'S, Sunday (CANA) — Leftist party leader, Kendrick Radix, has described the \$226.3 million budget presented by Prime Minister Herbert Blaize Friday as nothing but a retrenchment budget.

Radix, leader of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM), said that there is nothing in the budget for the working people.

St Louis Objections

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 25 Feb 87 p 19

[Text]

ST GEORGE'S, Tuesday (CANA) — Opposition leader Phinsley St Louis is criticising the government's spending plans for tourism marketing.

St Louis compared the 1987 \$1.8 million (EC) allocation for tourism, Grenada's second foreign exchange earner, to the \$2 million budgeted in 1982.

He said that the leftist People's Revolutionary Government (PRG), which was in power then, was able to recognise the potential of tourism to the island's development.

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CS01 3298/151

BRIEFS

SENATE NOMINEES--St Georges, 17 Feb (CANA)--Agriculturalist Pope McLean, the lone unsuccessful candidate of the ruling New National Party (NNG) in the 1984 general election, has been nominated to fill one of two opposition vacancies in the Senate, well-placed sources said. The sources said newly-appointed opposition leader Phinsley St Louis had submitted McLean's name to Governor General Sir Paul Scoon for appointment. Terrence Griffith, a 25-year-old theologian and founding member of St Louis' five-month old Democratic Labour Congress (DLC), was named to fill the other vacancy. Both senators are expected to take their seats for the first time tomorrow when the upper house meets. Some political analysts here said they regard McLean's appointment as a further sign of the increased bickering within the NPP government. The new Senate appointments follow the resignation of former senators Derek Knight and Oliver Raeburn, who were both appointed by Marcel Peters, who recently was ousted as opposition leader. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1615 GMT 17 Feb 87 FL] /9274

CSO: 3298/151

PRESIDENT CEREZO REJECTS URNG DIALOGUE PROPOSAL

PA171645 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Feb 87

[Report by correspondent Felipe Valladares]

[Text] Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo has again rejected the dialogue proposal made by the URNG on occasion of its 5th anniversary on 7 February. On October 1986, the Christian Democrat President had also rejected the possibility of starting a high-level dialogue with the rebels comprising the URNG to find a solution to the internal armed conflict in Guatemala.

The URNG issued a declaration on its 5th anniversary that encompasses a minimum platform that would allow the establishment of an advanced, popular, and independent democracy in Guatemala.

Cerezo's response was expressed 2 days ago during a public ceremony in which the FRG Government delivered to the Guatemalan Government 120 vehicles for the Guatemalan security forces. During the ceremony, President Cerezo said that a dialogue could be held but it would be conditioned on the rebels' putting down their weapons.

The day before this ceremony, the Army issued a communique expressing its opposition to any possibility of dialogue with the rebels. Therefore, Cerezo's response is framed within the parameters determined by the military men regarding the Christian Democrat government.

In view of the Guatemalan president's decision to reject a dialogue with the insurgents to find a solution to the serious economic and political situation the country is enduring, it is necessary to ask what can President Vinicio Cerezo's role be in the Central American conflict, where he allegedly supports a negotiated settlement.

/7358

CSO: 3248/224

GAM REPORTS INCREASE IN MURDERS

PA152031 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Feb 87

[Text] The GAM (Mutual Support Group) reported in its latest information bulletin that 167 people were murdered and 31 detained or missing in Guatemala during the last 3 months.

The GAM points out that murders and kidnappings have grown alarmingly in this Central American country as a result of the reappearance of the so-called death squads.

GAM gives as a recent example the case of Lizbeth Alfaro, a young medical school student, whose body was found on 13 February near the university of Guatemala City.

/7358

CSO: 3248/224

CONFERENCE DELEGATE SUPPORTS REGIONAL INTEGRATION

FL171337 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Eduardo Delgado, Cuban delegate to the Latin American and Caribbean Conference on Basic Goods, has called for the creation of an international fund for these items to improve the coordination of joint positions in negotiations with developed countries.

In another part of his speech to representatives from 27 regional countries meeting in Guatemala City, Delgado called for regional integration as the only way to solve the pressing problems confronted by the region, including protectionism and unequal trade, which affect us so much.

/7358

CSO: 3248/224

REACTION TO 1987 INCOME TAX PACKAGE

'Inflationary': UCN

Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 1 Dec 86 p 5

[Text] Guatemala City, 1 Dec--"The budget, which is scandalously inflationary and immediately entails a new package of taxes, was passed by the ruling party, Christian Democracy (DC), and its masters, the legislators on the Far Right, in an obviously concerted, cynical and shameless attempt to oppress the people and crush them under a heavier tax burden," said UCN [National Center Union] Congressman Richard Shaw in comments on the most recent session of Congress, at which it approved the budget.

In an interview with this paper the lawmaker added: "The millions [of quetzales] that the administration seeks to collect next year will have to come from somewhere, as it takes its irresponsible approach to an economic recovery that will set us adrift for many years."

EL GRAFICO: How was the budget passed?

Richard Shaw: The way that the budget was passed will go down in Guatemalan history as something incredible. The Christian Democrats did not have the majority that they always boasted of having and were forced to postpone the third reading of the budget to the following day.

The Christian Democrat leaders took advantage of this grace period and were able to "concert with extreme rightwing congressmen who have pretended to be "rabid" opponents of the administration, apparently just when it suits them. Those rightist congressmen are the ones who along with the DC are responsible for passing the budget that will burden the people with higher taxes.

EL GRAFICO: By using the term "concert" aren't you saying that the practices of the past are with us again?

Richard Shaw: It's difficult to tell what the Christian Democrats mean by "concert." In this specific case, I imagine that major marketplace interests were at stake, because the masters are one group and their slaves the other. As another example I can cite a party that publishes weekly criticisms of the administration in joke form with a "little rooster" as its symbol. But after

the vote in Congress, when these constant critics supported their "enemy" in the shameful case of the budget under which the people will pay higher taxes, we no longer know whether their symbol is a chicken or a rooster, or whether it's a market symbol too. The votes depend on what is being offered.

The chicken-rooster group unquestionably voted for the budget, and we must not forget that the promoter of this pseudogroup is a representative of the hard-line Right in our country. Who knows why others backed the bill, but the people know who they are. The fact of the matter is that the Christian Democrats did not have enough congressmen to pass the enormous budget. And of course they sought support from their brethren in the rightwing battle and secured a majority.

Meanwhile, their lawmaker colleagues, six in all, were enjoying the overseas trips and jaunts that they got from being bought off. And meanwhile, foreign exchange is running short in Guatemala, and the people are being oppressed so that they can keep on taking trips as they please.

In short, with so many congressmen on trips and with the desertion of the renewal faction, the Christian Democrats would not have been able to pass the huge budget.

EL GRAFICO: What was the position of your party, the UCN?

Richard Shaw: We stayed together, united as always. We opposed this budget, which will be a heavy cross for Guatemala to bear. We were the only opposition party that offered sound arguments against the administration; we explained our position and put forth alternatives so that the poorest segments of the population would not be punished further.

EL GRAFICO: What were those alternatives?

Richard Shaw: There were several, but the most important was the proposal for a 15 percent cut in operating expenses in the budget. The DC rejected it because it cannot chart a course to help the people. Its commitments are to those who are oppressing the Guatemalan people. Nor did they like our proposal to abolish the security corps for the Finance Ministry; the Christian Democrats once again showed their true face.

EL GRAFICO: What do you think 1987 will be like for the people then?

Richard Shaw: What the people have in store for them is hunger, poverty, despair and anguish without consolation from any government institution, as well as higher taxes that will shatter Guatemala and enrich the others.

UNAGRO Critical

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 8 Dec 86 p 4

[Text] Gustavo Anzueto Vielman indicated yesterday that "the budget that Congress has irresponsibly passed will push the administration towards a political collapse with dire consequences."

He remarked that the quetzal would become devalued and lose purchasing power because of the inflation that the huge 1987 national budget promotes.

The farm sector leader, an architect by profession, warned the Guatemalan people and producers about the additional income collected by the government, "because it consists of quetzales that are devalued in dollar terms."

The latest figures on export earnings are down 12 percent from 1985. "Therefore," he noted, "when revenues decline, government spending should fall."

Like other businessmen farmers, Anzueto Vielman, who is a member of UNAGRO, backed the petition submitted by the Trade Union of Exporters of Nontraditional Products, asking the administration to suspend the operations of the SGS.

The controls will further slow the country's economy, he emphasized.

Economists Offer Views

Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 27 Dec 86 p 5

[Text] Guatemala City, 27 Dec--The Association of Economists, Accountants, Auditors and Business Administrators has voiced its opposition to the administration's announced plans for tax reform and criticized the bills proposed by the Ministry of Public Finance.

The president of the professional association, Luis Vasquez, underscored its stand, indicating that "the economic situation in the country does not lend itself to an increase in the general tax burden and especially on the middle class, which will wind up being the hardest hit."

He indicated that several specialists from the association have met to conduct an exhaustive study of the income tax and property tax bills and the proposed amendments to the VAT [value added tax] Law.

He noted that the conclusions of their analysis indicate that the first drafts of the bills contain "elements that in one way or another harm the professional sector and the middle class at large."

In this regard, Vasquez said that the association requested copies of the first drafts from the Finance Ministry and pointed out that the findings of the study have already been submitted to the finance minister, Dr Rodolfo Paiz Andrade, in a bid to defend the interests of the professional sector (more than 27,000-strong), which will unquestionably be hurt by the reforms that the administration is proposing.

Vasquez indicated that rather than think about boosting existing taxes, the administration should improve tax collection mechanisms, inasmuch as there is a great deal of evasion because of flaws in the system.

The following are the main points in the conclusions from the professional study on the three first drafts of the bills.

Income Tax Law

Article 6 of the first draft of the Income Tax Law jeopardizes professional activities because it limits the practice of a profession and violates the guarantees set forth in the Constitution of the Republic.

By taxing the income or earnings from interest on deposits, stocks, bonds and other securities issued by institutions of public or private law that are domiciled in the country (Article 7), the bill discourages investment, promotes the expatriation of capital and keeps foreign investment from returning.

Article 9 does not exempt Christmas bonuses or worker and other fringe benefits, thus infringing on labor's acquired rights.

Articles 12 and 118 make profit-distribution obligatory and apply a 10 percent tax. Not only does this constitute double-taxation; it represents a powerful brake on the development of the society and will trigger an inordinate rise in unemployment.

Taxes are levied on the loans or contracts granted for development purposes.

The rates for individuals in the tax table contained in Article 45 are too steeply progressive, thus adversely affecting the middle class.

The development of small and medium business is discouraged by very high taxes.

Property Tax Law

The Finance Ministry is currently transferring 60 percent or more of Property Tax (3.6 and 8 percent) revenues to the municipalities in which the taxed property is located as a sort of subsidy. The bill does not indicate for what purpose these revenues will be used.

In general, the study points out many shortcomings in the amendments proposed to the Property Tax Law, which was enacted more than 60 years ago.

Value Added Tax

The study suggests, in general, that the tax rate not be increased from its current seven percent. An effort should be made to enhance the collection system through more effective controls and by raising the awareness of private enterprise and taxpayers in general.

The study feels that the tax on medicine should be zero.

As the president of the association indicated in closing, the conclusions are the result of wideranging technical and scientific studies whose only aim was

to help the country and to defend the legitimate economic interests of the people.

Labor Hurls Charges

Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 3 Dec 86 p 3

[Text] Guatemala City, 3 Dec--Part of the administration's budget for the coming fiscal year will help the Christian Democratic Party create an organizational infrastructure to perpetuate itself in power, Mr Manuel Meneses, the secretary general of the Union of Workers of the Public Finance Ministry, asserted yesterday.

For this reason and because of the inflationary effects that the huge budget will have, the labor leader, speaking on behalf of his union, voiced complete opposition to it.

He explained that the budget contains a series of unnecessary items that are for specifically corrupt ends.

One of them, he said, is the 11.2 million in funding for the Development Ministry. "This money will buy off unions so that the party in power can perpetuate itself there," he indicated.

Mr Meneses indicated that such a policy is reprehensible from every standpoint because "organized labor should not be used by or shackled to the government."

Moreover, he felt that the Development Ministry is completely unnecessary and that the money could be used to help the poor.

The criticism by the Public Finance Ministry union comes on top of previous opposition from other labor and business groups.

Church Also Opposes Budget

The metropolitan archbishop, Monsignor Prospero Penados del Barrio, yesterday joined the sectors criticizing the new budget, indicating that "government spending should be cut."

8743

CSO: 3248/171

BRAZILIAN PRIVATE-SECTOR TEAM EYES AREAS OF COOPERATION

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 28 Jan 87 pp 4-5

[Text]

A TWO-MAN delegation from neighbouring Brazil is in Guyana on a one-week fact-finding visit to identify possible areas of co-operation between the two countries, especially in the construction of small hydro-electric plants, use of fuel-alcohol, urban transportation, mining and engineering.

The Brazilian private sector businessmen, Mr. Marcelo Perrupato e Silva and Mr. Wando Pereira Borges, here on the invitation of Brazilian Ambassador, Mr. Aderbal Costa, have so far met and held discussions with a number of public and private sector representatives.

Ideas of bringing raw material and partly-finished goods from Brazil to Guyana for final processing were discussed. Among the goods identified were ceramics and foundry-based products.

Speaking at a Press conference yesterday morning at the Brazilian Embassy, Church Street, the delegation reported that discussions were also held with respect to the renovation of damaged buses in Guyana, some of which were imported from Brazil.

SERVED

Both Mr. Borges and Mr. Silva, formerly served as Vice-Ministers of Transportation in Brazil, at different periods, and are now involved in private sector businesses — Mr. Borges with the Companhia Mineira De Obras e Pavimentacao (CINCOP) and Mr. Silva with the Empresa de Consultoria e Comercio Exterior (ECCEX). CINCOP is involved in the construction of roads, dams, airports, small hydro-electric plants and other industrial works, while ECCEX provides consultancy services, besides exporting industrial equipment.

In discussing the next step after this visit, the Brazilian businessmen said that they will be discussing their findings here with other private sector firms in Brazil, in an effort to build a relationship between Brazilian enterprises and their Guyanese counterparts.

Ambassador Costa said that one of the main difficulties in developing further economic relations between Guyana and Brazil is the lack of an organised information flow between the two countries.

He noted that the Guyana Embassy in Brazil has been

very forthcoming in contributing to this flow, as well as local agencies, but there is need for a more structured approach in developing this process. It is envisaged that this visit, and similar visits would correct this problem.

Meanwhile, the delegation which leaves Guyana tomorrow, was scheduled to meet with Guyana's Trade Minister Winston Murray, yesterday evening to discuss import and export possibilities between the two neighbouring countries and re-exportation to Caricom countries and the United States.

Earlier in the visit the Brazilians met with Senior Minister of Communications and Works Jules Kranenburg, Head of the Department of International Economic Co-operation, Dr. Cecil Rajana, Head of the Geology and Mines Commission, Dr. Grantley Walrond and Executive Chairman of the Guyana Natural Resources Agency, Winston King.

And among the private sector businessmen they met were Kayman Sankar, Mike Brassington, John Simon DeFreitas, Ken DeAbreu and Wainright McKenzie.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPROVES BUDGET AFTER GENERAL DEBATE

Police, Anticrime Provisions

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 29 Jan 87 p 4

[Text]

GOVERNMENT'S commitment to trade union education, crime prevention, a stronger private sector and youth and sports development was enunciated clearly in the National Assembly during the first two days of the general debate on the 1987 Budget.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Cde. Stella Odie-Ali, dealing with the question of crime prevention, stressed that there is an increasing involvement of the Guyanese public in community policing and in the provision of incentives for Police/ citizen collaboration in crime prevention.

She said closer collaboration between the Police and citizens, evidenced by the establishment of 106 policing groups and community contributions to the Police

incentives fund, alone refuted opposition claims that the Police did not enjoy public confidence nor support in their crime prevention duties.

Cde Claude Geddes spoke about initiatives taken by Government to propel private sector participation in boosting national economic growth, while Cde Amna Ally spoke about moves to stimulate youth and sporting activities this year.

Cde Amna Ally pointed to the 23 disciplines programmed for this year's Guyana Games and gave the assurance that there would be no de-emphasising of social activities for youths because Government recognised that "the development of mind and body is an essential component of one's life."

Cde. Geddes, in his presentation, rejected op-

position charges that Government was neglecting the private sector.

He said legislation on a revised investment code was due to be laid in the National Assembly by mid-1987 and he listed a number of measures already in place, or proposed in the Budget, to strengthen the private sector, increase the involvement of small miners in mineral exploration, and encourage local farmers.

Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Cde. Jean Persico, chronicled - Government's contribution to the Trade Union Movement, informing the House that the administration is providing \$12m for capital works to the Critchlow Labour College despite financial constraints the Government faces. The college received \$350 000 from Government in 1986.

WPA Leader's Comments

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 29 Jan 87 p 5

[Text]

WPA Member of Parliament Eusi Kwayana gave the 1987 Budget a lukewarm reception Tuesday night and like all the other major contributors he was

granted 15 minutes extra time to complete his contribution.

Kwayana labelled the Budget "a ton of bricks," on poor people and questioned the logic behind the 127 per cent devaluation of the Guyana dollar.

He said he was not against devaluation as such, since devaluation, in some cases, can be useful. But he felt devaluation of the Guyana dollar of the magnitude decided on by the Government, was "madness."

The WPA member referred to what he termed short-term incentives given the private sector and described as "commendable" the industrial climate that prevailed last year.

He urged the establishment of breakfast centres for the school population, the transformation of unutilised buildings into apartments and joint State-Church ventures to provide additional shelter for the homeless.

He contended that there

will be a steep increase in the cost of housing and suggested that the Institute of Applied Science and Technology should become involved in researching indigenous materials for low-cost housing.

He said the MMA, if well run, will make a difference to agriculture in Guyana but contended that some serious environmental problems within the project area needed to be addressed. In this regard, the services of the University of Guyana should be utilised.

Debate Details

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 30 Jan 87 pp 1, 5

[Text]

WHILE there may be problems in some areas, there are ongoing development projects in the regions, PNC Member of Parliament Cde Basil Domingo of the Barima/ Waini region told the National Assembly Tuesday.

Education and training have been extended and agriculture production, including artisanal fishing, is increasing in Regions One and Nine, he observed during debate of the 1987 Budget.

According to Cde Domingo, Amerindian involvement and local democracy have been key features of hinterland development.

Also speaking during the debate was PNC Member of Parliament Cde Mohamed Deen, who observed that the Budget has been born out of a deep-seated desire

by the PNC Government to pull Guyana out of the economic doldrums in which it has found itself, principally as a result of the hostile and harsh international economic climate.

Members of the Minority in their criticism of the proposals, have failed to be constructive, Cde. Deen observed.

He said with the fiscal incentives and fiscal prudence proposed, workers are expected to benefit significantly, particularly in the medium and long term.

According to Cde. Deen, the contribution of the Minority to the debate had been a disappointment, for they had failed to deal with the essential structure of the Budget.

Also contributing to the debate was People's Progressive Party Member of Parliament, Harripersaud Nokta, who saw the Budget

as an indication of bankruptcy.

Dealing with a wide range of issues, he observed that transportation, medical services and agricultural production have all recorded poor performances, particularly in interior areas.

Nokta, like other PPP spokesmen, has called for subsidies for a number of items, including foodstuff.

Attack on Opposition

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 1 Feb 87 p 8

[Text] Member of the Central Executive Committee of the People's National Congress and Deputy Prime Minister, Cde Haslyn Parris has accused the Opposition People's Progressive Party of conducting a campaign of misinformation and disinformation in relation to the 1987 budget.

Without analyses there has been much conjecture on the part of the weak and fearful that has given rise to hysteria among the PPP. He charged the PPP with using statistics dishonestly...as a dog uses a lamp post for mischief rather than illumination.

The PPP leader, Dr Cheddi Jagan, in his budget debate presentation had pulled figures out of the budget to convey certain impressions designed to create panic. No mention was made of the 195 per cent increases in wages for workers in hotels, restaurants, and other such places, Cde Parris told the National Assembly.

He chided the PPP for lamenting the devaluation of the Guyana dollar which prior to January 16 last, was being traded at various rates and performing at a de facto rate of \$10 to the U.S. dollar.

One exchange rate operated for dealers in gold, another for rice farmers, and yet another for the parallel market.

Dr Jagan, in his presentation mentioned the International Monetary Fund no less than 10 times prompting Cde Parris to comment that the PPP conclusion reflected a paucity of understanding.

To contend that the 1987 budget was political rather than economic was to ignore the fact that financiers the world over have recognised that the Guyana economy is on the mend. They keep coming to do business with us, Cde Parris noted.

Attack on Jagan

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 1 Feb 87 p 8

[Text]

A sterling presentation stressing the aims and central thrust of the 1987 Budget by Prime Minister Cde Hamilton Green, and a walk-out by the PPP Members of Parliament, concluded the general debate on the national budget Wednesday.

The 15-minute walk-out by the PPP Parliamentarians was in protest of additional time allocated to

Prime Minister Cde Green for winding up the general debate presentation. It did not surprise the other members of the Assembly who stated that the PPP and Dr Cheddi Jagan had developed a reputation for boycotts.

Another Parliamentarian said the walkout neutralised claims by the PPP that it can make a positive input to the

country's development. Neither the United Force nor the Working People's Alliance joined in the walkout.

In keeping with the Standing Order of the House, the person winding up Budget debates is entitled to 45 minutes, but may be given an additional

15 minutes to conclude his presentation.

However, the PPP leader, who had developed a reputation for staging walkouts over the years, objected to the Staggering Orders being applied to Prime Minister Green.

All of the major speakers during the debate, in-

cluding Dr Jagan were earlier granted the 15-minute extension to conclude their presentations when the need arose. Among them were Working People's Alliance member Eusi Kwayana and the last speaker on the Opposition benches, PPP's Reepu Daman Persaud.

Budget Passage

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 31 Jan 87 p 1

[Text]

THE National Assembly yesterday approved the 1987 estimates for the current financial year after several sessions of debate in the National Assembly involving Government officials and members of the Minority parties.

The debate began Monday.

Also approved during yesterday's sitting of the Assembly was the Appropriation Bill 1987, which was introduced by Deputy Prime Minister Planning and Development, Cde. Haslyn Parris.

In accordance with the Constitution, when the Estimates of Expenditure have been approved by the Assembly, a Bill, to be known as an Appropriation Bill shall be introduced into the Assembly, providing for the issue from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet the expenditures.

All revenues or other moneys raised or received by Guyana is generally paid into and form the Consolidated Fund.

Yesterday's sitting was characterised by a series of questions posed by Minority spokesmen as the Committee of Supply of the Assembly considered budgetary allocations for the Ministry of Communications and Works, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The state of the ferry service around the country, condition of roads, and problems relating to air transport in the interior were among issues of concern voiced by People's Progressive Party members Cdes. Reepu Daman Persaud and Cyril Belgrave as well as Working People's Alliance member, Mr. Eusi Kwayana and United Force member, Mr. Michael Abraham.

In response, both Minister of Communications and Works, Cde. Richard Kranenburg and Minister in the Ministry of Health, Dr. Noel Blackman assured the Assembly that the 1987 Budget proposals seek to address some of the matters raised.

Replying to a point raised by Mr. Kwayana about the level of air safety in Guyana,

Cde. Kranenburg disclosed that flight operators would have to conform to special regulations being formulated before airworthiness certificates are issued.

The Civil Aviation Department has set up a new airworthiness division and discussions have been going on between aviation officials and operators in this regard.

According to the Minister, Guyana's air safety record is still good if the ratios are considered.

And in answer to questions about the ferry service in various parts of the country, he explained that an emergency plan has been prepared for the rehabilitation of existing ferry boats which will be done with assistance from the European Economic Community.

The Assembly also heard questions about the salary of Police Officers, the efforts of Police Community Groups and the work of the Office of the General Registrar.

PPP's Reepu Daman Persaud commended Registrar General, Cde.

Gwen Parris for the order which has been brought to that office.

However, he said that there was need for legislation to give powers to the Registrar General to correct problems in birth certificates and other such documents to save the cumbersome work of the Courts.

Questions from Minority spokesmen were also answered by Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Cde. Stella Odie-Ali who said a project to computerise registration would soon be started with the assistance of the Guyana Management Institute.

In response to questions about the Police Force, the Minister explained that the Police Department has a welfare section that attends to problems of members.

She said the work of the Police Service Review Committee has been completed and with the publication of a report, necessary steps will be taken regarding salary and other matters.

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CSO: 3298/152

CHANDISINGH: RHETORIC NOT ENOUGH TO IMPROVE ECONOMY

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 1 Feb 87 p 1

[Text] Deputy leader and General Secretary of the People's National Congress, Vice President Cde Ranji Chandisingh told the National Assembly, Tuesday, that the national economy "must be reconstructed and revitalised by the means that appear appropriate at this stage."

Speaking during the general debate in the House, Cde Chandisingh noted that as a responsible Government, the administration cannot sit back and allow the economy to drift and deteriorate.

"Still less can we resolve serious problems of imbalance in the economic-financial structure by empty rhetoric--there are no magical solutions," he added.

Guyana is beset by serious economic problems characterised by sluggishness in generating the resources for growth,

This in turn endangers the bases for survival as an independent country, puts at risk the gains achieved and threatens the ability of the nation to raise the standard of living and quality of life of the people.

Cde Chandisingh told the National Assembly "All Guyanese recognised that something had to be done to arrest the downward trend in production and exports--and creeping stagnation.

And it is self-evident, that production, profitability and export earnings are ultimately the key, the pre-condition for continuing social progress, for maintaining and improving the social services--health, education, transport, electricity, water supplies, cultural facilities, etc.

"No people can enjoy expanding social services without corresponding real economic growth.

"But it is necessary to restate these simple facts of life, at a time when several speakers on the other side of the House seem to expect, for example, that almost everything must be subsidised."

He chided the Minority for seeking to focus attention mainly on one element of the package rather than on the total package and in so doing misrepresenting and distorting the measures contained in the budget.

Cde Chandisingh detailed the measures contained in the budget proposals including the aim to curb the parallel market, and to stimulate economic activity particularly in the manufacturing and export fields.

Earlier statements by Minority Leader Dr Cheddi Jagan to the effect that the 1987 budget represented a sell-out to the International Monetary Fund and to imperialism were described by Cde Chandisingh, as "wild allegations."

Cde Chandisingh also challenged some of the other misleading remarks by Dr Jagan. Some of these related to Guyana's foreign policy and to the terms used as Guyana pursues its economic development.

"The Guyanese people are highly conscious and knowledgeable. They want their Government to take resolute action to bring about an improvement in the situation,

"With the necessary explanation they will understand and appreciate the steps now being taken to correct the imbalances and ultimately to improve the conditions of life in Guyana," Cde Chandisingh told the National Assembly.

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CSC, 3298/152

HOYTE ADDRESSES PNC GENERAL COUNCIL ON ECONOMIC ISSUES

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 1 Feb 87 pp 1, 8

[Text] General Council, the highest decision-making forum of the Party between Biennial Congresses is not only about Party affairs. Discussions at this forum also concern the welfare of the Guyanese people, the working class in which the People's National Congress finds its strength.

In his first presentation to the recent General Council meeting, Party Leader Cde Desmond Hoyte examined some of the proposals contained in the 1987 Budget and informed of some of the developments in the field of trade.

Commenting on the present economic situation, the Comrade Leader noted that more opportunities are available today than one year ago. Guyanese therefore need to seize these opportunities and make a reality of what they offered.

The public sector must lead in the drive to exploit and development of the natural resources. The Comrade Leader noted that had there been greater use of indigenous resources there would not have been the preoccupation with the effect of the devaluation.

During the past year there have been some successes in the use of indigenous resources to replace certain imports. The locally-owned Seals and Packaging Industries Limited (SAPIL) has produced industrial glue; the Demerara Distillers Limited has been producing yeast; the Institute of Applied Science and Technology has experimented with clay to the point where Guyana will be producing sanitary ware through Vanceram.

Further, in the drive to exploit the local resources Guyana will soon be holding discussions with a Japanese mission in relation to kaolin, Argentina is to send a "full-blown" economic mission by mid next month to explore the possibility of importing silica and sand from Guyana, and at present there is an economic mission from the Republic of Korea in Guyana.

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CSO: 3298/152

GOVERNMENT-TUC TALKS CONTINUE; UNION STRIKE PLANS SCORED

Criticism of NAACIE Threat

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 28 Jan 87 p 1

[Text]

A SPOKESMAN for the Guyana Sugar Corporation (Guysuco) yesterday described as "unwarranted and a violation of the existing collective labour agreement" a threat from the National Association of Agriculture, Commercial and Industrial Employees' Union (NAACIE) to stage a strike at the Diamond Sugar Factory today.

And, a Government spokesman commenting on the threat to disrupt operations in the industry, said such action would be unacceptable since it has no

industrial basis.

NAACIE has threatened to stage a one-day strike at Diamond today to protest Guysuco's decision to close the Diamond Sugar Factory at the end of the current crop.

Guysuco's decision is in keeping with the urgent necessity for the Corporation to rationalise and diversify its operations as part of its efforts at guaranteeing its survival and protecting its workers.

The Guysuco spokesman explained that since last year, Guysuco had informed

the Union of the decision to close the Leonora factory and one other factory on the East Demerara triangle. Last Friday, the Union was further informed that Diamond would be that other factory.

Guysuco, he said, finds it difficult to understand the Union's threat to take strike action.

Meanwhile, following the closure of the Leonora Estate, Guysuco has successfully found alternative employment for nearly all the affected workers.

Government Stand on TUC Issue

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 1 Feb 87 p 1

[Text]

THE Government team which has been negotiating the 1987 and 1988 wages packages with the TUC has expressed "great concern" about a report being peddled by some persons about one aspect of their deliberations.

The report, the team said in a statement yesterday, "gives the impression that the TUC had been tricked by Government into accepting

a wage package without any consideration of impending devaluation."

The report, the statement said, also "gives the impression that the Government is only now scrambling with indecent haste to reopen discussions with the TUC on the across-the-board element of the wages package."

Calling the report "inaccurate and discon-

certing", the statement added:

"The Government team wishes to make it abundantly clear that at the adjournment of talks immediately prior to the presentation of the Budget Speech, the agreement reached provided for the reopening of negotiations on the across-the-board element of the wages package.

"Indeed, the minutes of the meeting of January 13, 1987, the last meeting between the two sides prior to the presentation of the Budget Speech, states that the package 'has been agreed upon with the understanding that the across-the-board adjustment would be renegotiated in the event that in the respective years there is either substantial devaluation or substantial increase in taxation which adversely impacts on the cost-of-living of workers. Further discussions are scheduled to take place between the two parties in the weeks ahead to conclude the outstanding elements of the package and for clarification where necessary.'

"Accordingly, the TUC has been in no way con-

strained from pursuing the just, short and longer term interests of the workers, particularly in relation to adjusting the wage package as one means of contributing to the cushioning of the impact of the Budget measures on workers.

"It is a fact that an automatic mechanism for renegotiation of the across-the-board element had been proposed by the Government's team and had been accepted by the TUC's team, before the presentation of the Budget Speech.

"This mechanism has been activated, and the TUC and the Government resumed discussions on Wednesday, January 21, 1987. The parties are to meet again during this week, the first week of February, 1987, with a view

to achieving amicably, inter alia, a determination of the appropriate level of the across-the-board adjustment.

"Other matters agreed for discussion include the actuaries' proposed increases in N.I.S. benefits and contributions, and the introduction of legislation on severance pay. The Government team is operating under the publicly given directive from the Cde. President, in his address to the nation of Sunday, January 18, 1987, that these matters should be dealt with expeditiously.

"The Government team has deemed it necessary to make this categorical statement to erase and correct any false impressions and perceptions that may have been created."

TUC Press Conference

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 5 Feb 87 pp 1, 5

[Text]

GOVERNMENT is expected to resume talks with the Guyana Trades Union Congress (TUC) within a week on the renegotiation for a new wages package for the country's public sector workers.

TUC President George Daniels told the Chronicle the two sides will meet again either this weekend or early next week. They first met on January 21, just three days after President Desmond Hoyte expressed the hope in a radio broadcast that the discussions would resume "with a sense of urgency" following the devaluation of the Guyana dollar.

Both the TUC and the Ministry of Finance had agreed that a negotiated 5.5 per cent across-the-board wages increase package for 1987 would be reviewed if the Government either devalued the country's currency or increased taxes.

Cde. Daniels spoke at a

Press conference at the Critchlow Labour College at the conclusion of a TUC Executive Council meeting at which members considered a report by the TUC's Economic and Research Committee on the 1987 Budget and the impact the Budget will have on the cost of living.

The TUC President said the devaluation made the renegotiations "an urgent necessity" and pointed out that the TUC hoped to work out a timetable with the Government in an effort to bring about an early conclusion of the new wages talks.

The TUC President claimed that his organisation was surprised by the devaluation since it was under the impression that rate adjustment would not have taken place. But he later conceded that the Government had the final say on such an action. In the circumstances the TUC would seek to enhance the

purchasing power of the TUC.

In answer to a question, he ruled out industrial action as a TUC response to the devaluation, adding that there was no question of the organisation losing faith in its attempts to accomplish better wages and working conditions for the country's workforce.

Said Cde. Daniels: "We are negotiating in good faith in the interest of the development of the national economy." He said the 127 per cent devaluation was likely to have some negative impact on the take-home pay of low-salaried workers. He further stressed that the TUC would press on with proposals for wide-ranging incentives for those workers since they have been shouldering the sacrifice the nation has been making over the years to transform the Guyanese economy.

The Press conference was also attended by members of the TUC executive.

RICE EXPORTS UP 31 PERCENT IN 1986; NEW MARKETS EYED

George GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 3 Feb 87 p 1

[Text]

THE Guyana Rice Export Board recorded a 31 per cent increase in exports last year compared with total rice exports in 1985 while the Board's hard currency earnings rose from \$1.75m US to \$6.5m US over the same period, GREB General Manager, Cde. Claude Housty reported yesterday.

Cde. Housty observed that although in 1986 GREB operated with an overall fall in the unit price for rice, exports to the European Economic Community (EEC) rose from 7501 metric tonnes in 1985 to 21 544 metric tonnes last year.

CONTRACT

Additionally, GREB secured a three-month contract with the World Food Programme (WFP) to supply 4106 metric tonnes of rice to Nicaragua and Honduras and was also able to re-enter the Jamaican market, after an absence of nearly three years, supplying 5413 metric tonnes of rice to that country.

The average per unit price for rice fell from \$1929 in 1985 to \$1488 in 1986, and the GREB also experienced quality control difficulties due to lack of equipment,

laboratory facilities and chemicals.

However, according to Cde. Housty, it is envisaged that in 1987 these problems will be greatly alleviated and an almost 100 per cent increase in rice exports and hard currency earnings is expected.

These projections, he noted, are almost certain to be realised if private individuals and companies are granted licences to export rice and rice products, as is likely in the near future.

Among the objectives of the GREB which was established in August, 1985 are the expansion of the export trade in rice and rice products, and marketing research and analysis pertaining to export potential for rice and rice products.

The GREB also monitors and guides the development of the rice industry and engages in various commercial, industrial and other activities necessary for increasing the export of rice and rice products.

Cde. Housty said that in the future, GREB, in addition to looking for new markets, will be moving to increase its exports to the EEC, which is a hard currency market.

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CSO: 3298/152

NEW MEASURES TO IMPROVE BORROWING, INVESTMENT POSTURES

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 1 Feb 87 pp 1, 2

[Text]

THE Government of Guyana, in accord with the provisions of the 1987 Budget is in the process of enacting measures for the introduction of new kinds of Treasury Bills and Debentures.

The overall objective is two-fold:

- to reduce the proportion of short-term borrowing, and correspondingly, increase the proportions of medium and longer term borrowing by the Government, from the public.
- to encourage savings by offering attractive rates of interest, particularly on the medium and longer term ranges of investment.

The new measures will offer financial institutions attractive opportunities for local short, medium and longer term investments. The Government will be taking steps to have these new investments in place by the end of February 1987.

At present the Government issues three-month (91 days) Treasury Bills at a discount rate of 12.75 per cent per annum, and two, five and ten years debentures at 14.5, 15 and 16 per cent per annum respectively. This regime is to be changed.

The Bank of Guyana is currently working to put in place new one-year (360-days) Treasury Bills while at the same time retaining the

issuing of the three-month Treasury Bills. However, the two instruments will have differing conditions attached to their sale:

The 360-day Bill will only be redeemed by the Central Bank at its maturity, whilst the existing 91-day Bills will continue to be allowed to be rediscounted by the Central Bank at any time.

The retention of this feature for the 91-day Treasury Bills will enable banks and other investing agencies to readily convert into cash, holdings of 91-day Bills to meet their liquidity requirements.

Another feature which will be introduced into the issuance of Treasury Bills is the return to the original system of competitive tendering. Thus the 91-day Bill will no longer automatically carry the fixed discount rate of 12.75 per cent. Instead those tenders offering the most attractive price for the Bills will be given priority when applications are being considered.

In this manner, the discount rates which will be applied to Treasury Bills will be determined by the normal market forces of demand and supply.

Treasury Bills and Government debentures are forms of financial securities offered by the Government for sale to the public for which attractive yields are earned on the basis of favourable and competitive

discount and interest rates.

Treasury Bills are short-term maturing financial instruments while debentures tend to carry a longer maturity and offer a higher rate of interest.

At present Commercial Banks and other financial institutions, not taking into account the Bank of Guyana, have a total of over G\$1 billion invested in Treasury Bills. However, new ceilings will be introduced to limit the investments of these institutions in Treasury Bills to about half of that amount.

The new measures are therefore designed to encourage the various financial institutions to invest in longer-term as well as higher yielding securities.

The same approach will be taken to holders of Treasury Bills other than financial institutions who will also have a ceiling placed on their investment in Treasury Bills.

The Government's new five and ten year debentures will now carry interest rates of 18 and 20 per cent per annum respectively. The 18 per cent per annum rate represents an investment in which the money lent doubles in about 4 years,

while the 20 per cent per annum rate represents an investment in which the money lent quadruples in under 8 years. These new debentures therefore offer the most competitive rates available to investors at this point in time.

With the five-year debenture, although interest will accrue, there will be a moratorium on interest and principal repayments for the first three years after which time both accrued and current interest will be paid along with the principal on an Equated Annuity basis (i.e. in 4 equal half yearly instalments).

The ten-year debenture issues will operate in a similar fashion with interest accruing for the first five years, although a moratorium on principal and interest payments will apply for the first five years. Thereafter there will be 10 equal half-yearly payments consisting of principal and interest.

The issuing of the two-year Fixed Date and Equated Annuity Debentures which is currently done will be discontinued, and so also will be the issuing of the five-year Fixed Date and Equated Annuity debentures.

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CSO: 3298/152

BRIEFS

TRADE WITH KOREA--Public and private sector representatives from Guyana and the Republic of Korea began discussions yesterday on the possibility of establishing trade and economic relations between the two countries. The discussions were still in the "exploratory" stage up to late yesterday, but both sides were reportedly hopeful of concluding the talks on a positive, mutually favourable note. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 28 Jan 87 p 5] /9274

CSO: 3298/152

SEAGA BOOED AT FUNERAL; JLP REJECTS PNP APOLOGY

PNP Regrets

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 19 Feb 87 p 1

[Text]

PNP General Secretary Dr. Paul Robertson says the Party regretted the unfortunate incidents at the funeral service for the Hon. Edna Manley, O.M., at the Kingston Parish Church and at the National Heroes Park when some elements of the crowd booed the Prime Minister.

The PNP, he said, believed that the Office of the Prime Minister should be treated with respect at all times and more so at public functions and ceremonies which have national and international significance.

Dr. Robertson said: "Politics should involve civilised argument and debate without personal rancour, even if vigorous and strong. It should never become — because of political differences — an arena for public offensive abuse."

The General Secretary said the country still recalled the many incidents of precedence set in the late 1970s (including the Award Ceremony at the World Cup Tennis Tournament in Montego Bay) when Mr. Michael Manley was booed. He said that despite the political tensions which existed then and now, the PNP did not subscribe to this behaviour.

He called on all supporters of the PNP to continue to behave with the model of exemplary conduct which they have displayed while the Party has been the Opposition.

Dr. Robertson said the PNP had deliberately set out to reduce any appearance of disunity as a mark of respect to the memory of The Hon. Edna Manley by proposing to the Government that in the procession

from the Church to the Park the leaders and representatives of both political parties walk together in a demonstration of unity. This proposal, he said, was accepted and done.

The PNP's General Secretary said the presence of people of all political persuasions and of all social and economic group in the society who came to share their grief, made the incidents even more regrettable.

Jamaicans, he said, must learn the importance of respect for each other, learn to live in peace with each other, and always to seek to find means and ways to achieve national understanding and togetherness in real development objectives.

"It is through such togetherness and understanding, despite opposing political views, that our country will grow and prosper," he said.

JLP Rejection

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 20 Feb 87 p 1

[Text]

MR. Ryan Peralto, General Secretary of the Jamaica Labour Party, has rejected the "regret" extended by Dr. Paul Robertson, General Secretary of the People's National Party, over the booing of Prime Minister Edward Seaga at the funeral of Mrs. Edna Manley on Sunday.

A statement from Mr. Peralto yesterday said:

"Out of respect to the memory of the late Honourable Edna Manley, I had chosen to let the unprecedented display of hooliganism at her recent

funeral by some PNP supporters go unmentioned. However, the statement by the PNP General Secretary, Dr. Paul Robertson, on the front page of the **Gleaner** of Thursday, February 19, makes it necessary for me to speak.

"I regret being unable to accept the PNP General Secretary's expressions of 'regret' regarding the booing of the Prime Minister at Mrs. Manley's funeral at face value since he contradicts himself by a simultaneous attempt to justify that occur-

rence by citing 'precedence'. To compare the booing of a Prime Minister at a tennis tournament with the booing of a Prime Minister at an official occasion of the most solemn nature is rather like comparing potatoes with apples.

"Mrs. Manley's funeral was not merely an official occasion. It was an occasion on which it was hoped that political differences would be set aside as all Jamaicans united in mourning the passing of a greatly beloved and admired Jamaican, the wife of a beloved national hero. The

inability of some PNP supporters to behave with proper decorum on this of all occasions is proof of one thing: Regardless of the public image that party has been trying to project recently, nothing has really changed; their descent into new depths of indiscipline and hooliganism can take place without warning, without provocation.

"I leave one question with the thoughtful reader. If the PNP can create a demonstration out of such a solemn official funeral, what can they create out of a demonstration?"

/9274

CSO: 3298/153

PNP SPOKESMAN LABELS IMF ACCORD 'SUICIDAL PACT'

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Feb 87 p 17

[Text]

THE PNP's spokesman on Industry and Commerce, Mr. Claude Clarke, has labelled the recently concluded IMF/Jamaica Agreement as "a suicidal pact" intended to set the country firmly back on the road to dependency.

"We have an agreement which creates the illusion of success, while concealing the sting of the most retrogressive, anti-production, anti-worker and counter independence economic package ever assembled in our post independence history," Mr. Clarke stated.

Addressing the Jamaica Association of Journalists quarterly luncheon at the Carlyle Beach Hotel in Montego Bay last Wednesday, Mr. Clarke noted that the most far-reaching and damaging effect of the agreement was the Tariff Reform Programme, which provided for substantial reduction in import duties and subsequently, the "virtual removal" of production of the country's producers.

While the duties on finished consumer imports would decrease from 200% to 68% this year and 30% in 4 years time, he said, no provisions were made for the reduction of du-

ties on local production, which ranged from 15% to 47%.

The reduced duties meant lower prices for imported goods at the expense of local production, which would eventually decline resulting in job losses, Mr. Clarke said.

Describing the Agreement as "madness masquerading as management," he observed that "the madness" was compounded by the fact that the cost of the reduction on import duties would be borne by the Jamaican producer. Duties which were not applicable before, he said, and which would net \$72m in revenue, were not to be charged on production inputs.

"This is not only madness, it is suicide. Imports, the product of foreign factories, foreign farms and foreign workers, are to be subsidised by struggling Jamaican producers and workers. This is not an agreement, it is a suicidal pact, which devastate the industrial base of our economy and turn us all back to dependency," he said.

Mr. Clarke stated that the manufacturing sector would soon be wiped out if some of the excise and consumption taxes were not removed from domestic production and placed instead on imports, thereby reducing the price of locally produced products.

/9274

CS01 3298/153

1986-87 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES SHOW SPENDING CUTS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 18 Feb 87 pp 1, 3

[Text] A reduction of \$98-million in Government spending for the financial year 1986/87, due mainly to huge cuts in spending in multilateral and bilateral projects, was revealed in the First Supplementary Estimates which were tabled in the House of Representatives yesterday.

The Recurrent figures were for gross supplementary spending of \$305,852,700. With the transferral of \$125-million, the figure fell to \$180,852,700. Deduction of the under-expenditure of \$28,654,000 left a net supplementary total (Recurrent) of \$152,198,700.

On the Capital side, the gross estimate was for \$83,436,000. This was deflated, however, by under-expenditure of \$334,524,000, leaving a gap of minus \$251,088,000.

The expenditure uniformly fell in the final figures from a total gross figure of \$389,288,700 to minus \$98,889,300. The 1986/87 Budget had projected spending of \$3,576,163,000 (Recurrent) and \$2,255,586,000 (Capital), or total spending of \$5,831,749,000 which has now been reduced by the minus

\$ 98,889,300 projected in these Estimates.

By far, the greatest reductions in spending were in terms of the multilateral and bilateral projects as well as loan repayment. For example, just over \$16 million was shaved off contributions to the World Bank.

In the Ministry of Finance, spending in terms of multilateral and bilateral programmes involving agricultural credit fell by over \$80 million.

A total of \$118 million for revision of salaries and allowances were transferred from the Ministry of Finance to various other heads.

Most increases in spendings in the various Ministries were to cover improvements in salaries and allowances and formed part of the transferrals from the Ministry of Finance. In the Ministry of Education, Primary and All-Age Schools are allotted an additional \$ 26.7 million. Secondary Schools \$ 23.7 million

more and High Schools \$20 million more, to cover increased salaries.

There was reduced spending of some \$33 million in the same Ministry due to the slow pace of implementation of various projects.

In the Ministry of Health, multilateral and bilateral programmes had their figures revised to the extent of some \$ 24 million.

The Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) was allocated \$ 9 million more, while \$ 1 million was taken from the provisions for major police equipment. The auxiliary police force got \$ 12 million more to cover their salary revision. Public officers' pensions, allowances and gratuities went up by \$ 3.2 million. Compassionate Grants were reduced by \$ 5.4 million.

There was \$ 1.8 million more for Poor Relief Services and approximately \$ 5.4 million more to meet additional costs for the acquisition of lands and for flood damage rehabilitation under the development of

rural land settlements programme in the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Scientific Research Council had a \$ 5.2 million cut in its estimates. The UNDP/WHO Second Sugar Rehabilitation Project had its figures revised downwards by \$ 8.7 million due to a late start to the project.

The Jamaica Tourist Board got \$ 12 million more boosting its budget to \$ 156 million. Jamaica Vacations Limited got \$ 8 million more. The National Water Commission saves \$ 3 million from its major water supplies schemes programme. There are also reductions in the major water supply, technical assistance for improvements, major rural water supply and facilities for air navigation projects under the Ministry of Public Utilities and Transport totalling some \$ 34 million.

Emergency Flood Damage Repairs is allocated \$ 8 million to cover additional damages caused by flood rains. Road improvement programmes in Kingston and St. Andrew including the resurfacing project have their estimates cut by some \$ 4 million. Some \$ 26 million is also cut from other major road improvement programmes for the Corporate and rural areas.

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CSO: 3298/153

BANK FORECASTS 1986 DOMESTIC ECONOMY GROWTH OF 2 PERCENT

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER (THE FINANCIAL GLEANER) in English 20 Feb 87 p 1

[Text]

GROWTH in the total domestic economy for 1986 is expected to be around 2 percent, compared with a decline of 5 percent in 1985, according to the Bank of Jamaica **Economic Bulletin** for January, 1987.

The Index of Industrial Production grew by 9.1 percent in 1986 as against a decline of 22.2 percent in 1985. The major contributors to the better performance in 1986 were the Mining and Utilities sub-sectors.

Total bauxite and alumina production rose by 11.5 percent and 7.7 percent respectively. Alumina output was highly influenced by the significant gains in output which were recorded by Clarendon Alumina Productions Limited.

Total electricity usage rose by 6.7 percent, which is consistent with the higher level of economic activity in 1986 compared with 1985, the Bulletin said.

INFLATION DOWN

The Bulletin pointed out that the Consumer Price Index reflected an inflation rate of 10.4 percent on a point-to-point basis in the calendar year 1986. This represents a sharp reduction below the rate of 23.3 percent recorded in 1985.

On a mean annual basis, the rate of inflation in 1986 was 15.1 percent, compared with 25.7 percent in 1985. The relatively lower rate of inflation in 1986 can be largely attributed to the stability of the exchange rate, which remained at an average of US \$1.00 J \$5.50 throughout the year.

The impact of the behaviour of the exchange rate on the consumer price 'basket' is significant, given the high import content of the 'basket' for many of the major items. The benefits derived from exchange rate stability were re-enforced by reduced oil prices and consequently fuel costs.

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CS01 3298/153

STONE POLLS MEASURE PUBLIC VIEWS ON POLITICAL ISSUES

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14, 16-18 Feb 87 p 3

[Carl Stone polls, conducted 9-12 January 1987 under supervision of political scientist Prof Carl Stone, Ph D C.C. and covering 1,206 voters interviewed in 68 communities in all parishes, with estimated sample error of plus/minus 4 percent]

[Text] Michael Manley Named Most Outstanding Politician

[14 Feb 87 p 3]

PNP President Michael Manley came out considerably ahead of all other politicians in the January 1987 Stone Poll nominations for the outstanding politician in 1986.

Manley received more than two and a half times the nominations of his nearest rival Prime Minister Edward Seaga. Third in line was JLP Minister Parnel Charles followed by Deputy Prime Minister Hugh Shearer, PNP Chairman P.J. Patterson and PNP Vice President Portia Simpson, the only woman among the top-ranked politicians.

Overall, JLP politicians received less nominations than PNP personalities.

Michael Manley dominates the PNP nominations while Parnel Charles closely rivals JLP leader Seaga for the top position among persons making JLP nominations.

JLP Chairman Bruce Golding, WPJ leader Trevor Munroe, Youth Minister Bartlett, dismissed JLP Minister Douglas Vaz, PNP's spokesman on finance, Seymour Mullings and PNP General Secretary Paul Robertson are also among the top-ranked politicians.

Question:

Looking back at 1986, which Jamaicans would you say were most outstanding in the field of politics?

Answers:

Michael Manley (32%)
 Edward Seaga (12%)
 Parnel Charles (10%)
 P.J. Patterson (4%)
 Hugh Shearer (4%)
 Portia Simpson (3%)
 Paul Robertson (2%)
 Bruce Golding (2%)
 Douglas Vaz (1%)
 Trevor Munroe (1%)
 Seymour Mullings (1%)
 Ed Bartlett (1%)

[16 Feb 87 p 3]

Public Concerned About Police Violence

Although the January 1987 Stone Poll confirmed that public confidence in the police fight against crime has grown and that most policemen are seen by the public as doing a good job, there is great concern by the public over police killings, police violence and police disrespect for citizens' rights.

Sixty percent (60%) of the Jamaican public believe the police is doing a good job of fighting crime. In 1984 only 51% of the public expressed confidence that the police was doing a good job of crime fighting.

Fifty-seven percent (57%) of the public believe that the police mistreats citizens by disrespecting their rights.

Three years ago 86% had expressed that view.

A large 87% of the public believe that most policemen are doing a good job. Their concern and worry, therefore, relates to a minority of policemen who are seen as giving the force a bad name.

Sixty percent (60%) feel that too much force is being used by policemen in apprehending suspects. In 1979 only 32% of the public held that view. Concern over police violence is therefore growing and some citizens feel that the Police High Command needs to take a firmer stand against policemen who mistreat citizens.

Echoing a sensitivity sharpened by the Americas Watch Report and the exten-

sive public debate on the issues raised, 58% believe that the police kill citizens unnecessarily.

QUESTION: What is your view of the police in Jamaica? Is the police doing a good job in controlling crime?

YES (60%) NO (40%)

QUESTION: Is the police showing enough respect for citizens' rights?

YES (43%) NO (57%)

QUESTION: Is the police using too much force.

YES (60%) NO (40%)

QUESTION: Is the police killing citizens unnecessarily?

YES (58%) NO (42%)

QUESTION: Are most of the policemen doing a good job?

YES (87%) NO (13%)

[17 Feb 87 p 3]

Opinion Swings Against Local Government Changes

FOLLOWING the July 1986 Local Government elections and the seeming impotence of the newlyelected Parish Councils to do anything (since most of their powers and finances have been taken over by the Central Government), national public opinion has come out decisively against the weakening of Parish Councils.

75% of the public regards the changes in Local Government as harmful. Even among JLP followers close to 50% disagree with the weakening of Local Government. An overwhelming majority of PNP and independent persons disagree with the JLP's Local Government policies.

This is in sharp contrast to opinions expressed in 1985 when 44% of the public supported these changes in the power of and role of Local Government and 50% disagreed. Apparently, the implications of the changes were not fully evident to the public until new councillors representing a majority of

opposition PNP politicians were elected in July.

Those who agree with the reduction of Parish Council functions and financing take the view that it has resulted in better efficiency and good management.

Those who disagree feel that local rural communities are being neglected, that too many jobs have been lost, that outsiders rather than local people and "big men" rather than "small men" are getting the work that Parish Councils used to handle, that the MP's have too much control over what gets done at the

local level and that political victimisation has been increased.

QUESTION:

The government has taken away most of the responsibilities and spending power of the Parish Councils and the KSAC. Do you support that move and why?

ANSWERS:

SUPPORT IT22%
DISAGREE WITH IT 75%
NO VIEWS.....3%

Majority Dubious of David Coore's Return to the PNP

FORTY-SEVEN PERCENT of the persons interviewed in the January 1987 Stone Polls expressed doubts and disagreements over the return of Mr. David Coore to a position of prominence in the ranks of the PNP leadership.

Most JLP supporters disagree with the move, associating Mr. Coore with failed PNP financial management in the 1970's.

Among PNP supporters, opinions divided almost equally between those for Mr. Coore's return and those against. Those in favour felt that his vast experience, overseas contacts and image of moderation, maturity and soberness will

be an asset to the PNP. Those who disagree feel badly about his leaving the PNP when the party was going through rough times and have doubts as to how far his loyalty and commitment can be trusted in the future.

Question:

Mr. David Coore who was a PNP Minister in the 1970's has just returned to Jamaica after several years to take up a top post in the PNP. Do you think that this is a good move?

Answers:

YES.....28%
NO.....47%
DON'T KNOW.....25%

/9274

CSO: 3298/153

POLICE FORCE ABOUT 12 PERCENT UNDER AUTHORIZED STRENGTH

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Feb 87 pp 1, 3

[Text]

THE POLICE FORCE is about 746 men short of full strength which the establishment figure stipulates should be 6,317.

There has been an abnormal number of resignations, and recruitment which has been tightened, has seen lower numbers being accepted into the Force.

Police Commissioner Herman Ricketts told the *Gleaner* yesterday that "of course" the efficiency of the Force must be affected because there was not enough manpower. The present situation is that policemen have to be "doubling up" and working long hours.

However, Commissioner Ricketts said the auxiliaries (Special Constables and District Constables) were helping a lot.

Minister of National Security, the Hon. Errol Anderson, said his policy was that what manpower they had should be efficiently deployed.

He would be putting more emphasis on how efficiently the men were deployed and not their numbers.

The Security Ministry and the Police High Command plan a big advertising campaign to attract recruits, and another plan is to decentralise the Recruiting Centre, which is at Duke Street, Kingston, and put others at main stations in the different parishes.

To get into the Police Force now is not easy. Commissioner Ricketts said over the years, a lot of persons got into the Force who should not have. They were the bad eggs today, he said.

Last year, under a new, strict system only 129 recruits were accepted into the Police Force.

Between 1981 and 1985, some 41,500 persons applied to join the Force, some repeats, and the rejection rate was 90 per cent.

Figures for manpower shortage show that in January 1985 it was 197; in February 1985 it was 231; in January 1986 it was 486; in February 1986 it was 491; peaking to 746 this year.

Research done by the Personnel Unit of the Police Force indicates that the main factor was failure to recruit enough persons to fill the vacuum, and not resignations, retirements or deaths.

The *Gleaner* was told that to get the Force up to full strength, 1,000 persons per year needed to be recruited, or 20 per week, instead of the three a week at present.

Even if there were no resignations, and taking into consideration disciplinary action, retirements and deaths, at the present rate of recruitment it would take fourteen years to fill the gap.

Between 1980 and 1985 the rate of resignations was 2.7 per cent on a yearly average, compared to 3.3 per cent in the Civil Service.

But, since this year, resignations in the Police Force, have jumped.

The *Gleaner* understands that there are about forty resignations a month.

Police spokesmen although not verifying this figure said policemen leaving the Force did so mainly because of working conditions and the money they earned. Also because of not being promoted.

Several migrated and others went into private sector jobs, locally.

In regard to promotion, since 1981 about 750 constables and corporals, and 120 sergeants who have passed their promotional exams have not been promoted. The majority not promoted were in 1985 and 1986.

Commissioner Ricketts noted that in 1985 and 1986 there were record promotions in the rank and file (from Constable to Sgt.) and at present there was what he called "a bulge" in the middle ranks, which left the Constable rank short.

Security Minister Anderson said the Ministry had asked for information in regard to policemen passing promotional exams and not being promoted, and when this was done a review would be made to ease the situation.

BRIEFS

ADVANCED RADAR SYSTEM--The picture at right shows one of the most advanced air radar systems--the Thompson CSF--which is being put in place at one of the highest points in Jamaica, Mount Denham, some 4,500 feet above sea level in Manchester. Through a French line of credit, the radar installation, far superior to any now in Jamaica, should be operational within four months. It will have a range of 150 nautical miles and, through a computerised system, will monitor all aircraft in Jamaican airspace, both legal and illegal ones. It will link with other Civil Aviation Department air traffic monitoring systems, giving immediate information on aircraft in Jamaican airspace. Seen here is the giant antenna, which will revolve five times a minutes, and weighs about 13 metric tons. [Text] [Photo caption; photo not reproduced] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 18 Feb 87 p 1] /9274

CSO: 3298/153

MONTERREY MAYOR STATES BELIEF IN DIAZ SERRANO'S INNOCENCE

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 13 Jan 87 pp 1-A, 16-A

[Article by EXCELSIOR correspondent Jose Neme Salum]

[Text] Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, 12 Jan--"Jorge Diaz Serrano is innocent. At least I think so," Mayor Luis M. Farias stated here today at a press conference, adding that as far as the purchase of the two Pemex boats was concerned, a decision was made to accept a higher bid so that the boats would be available when needed and to save money on chartering.

Farias was an interim governor of the state, a two-time leader of the Chamber of Deputies (from 1955 to 1958 and from 1979 to 1982), a three-time federal deputy, director of information in the Interior Secretariat from 1958 to 1964, chief clerk in the Department of Tourism from 1964 to 1967, and senator in 1970. That year he was appointed interim governor, later returning to the Senate to serve out his term from 1973 to 1976. In the latter year he was named editor of EL NACIONAL, a post that he held until 1979.

The mayor of Monterrey spoke to the press after meeting with the PRI municipal committee. He indicated that the former director of Pemex "was right that the price of export crude had to be lowered. He was so right that that's the way it happened."

As for the boats, he indicated that "I don't think he's guilty. He was accused of buying two vessels at a higher price than had been originally offered," but what happened was that at the time "the money was not authorized for him, and by the time that they gave him the green light, a third party had beaten him to it."

Farias went on to say: "He did some calculations, he says, and saw that it would be 3 or 4 years before he could take delivery of other vessels, and by that time they would cost as much as the ones that he finally bought. Moreover, Pemex would have spent the difference chartering boats from other people while the ships were on the way."

Consequently, he indicated, "he decided to accept the new bid that they made him; it was higher, but he would have the ships sooner, when they were needed."

Luis Farias asserted that Diaz Serrano "is a competent and capable man who did a fine job at Pemex, but it is up to the judge to find him guilty or innocent. But I personally think that he's innocent."

He said that Diaz Serrano had to announce the drop in Mexican oil prices early because of the time difference between our country and the Middle East."

"That day," he continued, "in Iran or Saudi Arabia (I don't remember exactly) the oil sheiks were meeting to decide on pricing, which they did only every 3 months. Diaz Serrano, knowing that they were going to lower them, did not wait for the announcement of our competitors because he could not miss the chance to get the jump on them and preserve our markets. Moreover, doing so would have meant waiting another 3 months."

Farias feels that the former director "made a bold decision improperly, because he did not have the authorization of either the president or the economic cabinet. He violated principles of authority."

However, he was right, pragmatically speaking, to do so, he asserted, and had good reason to lower crude oil prices.

Farias said in conclusion: "Diaz Serrano thought that his colleagues were going to support him, but they didn't."

8743

CSO: 3248/207

HISTORIAN, CRITIC PRESENTS CASE FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORM

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 14 Jan 87 pp 7-A, 9-A

[Lorenzo Meyer commentary: "The Next 6-year Presidential Term; A Timely Proposal"]

[Text] The changes that have just taken place in the ruling party mark the beginning, it is said, of the preparations for the upcoming presidential campaign. Since there is little that can be done once the name of the man whom the president appoints as his successor in 1988 is made public, this would seem to be the time (the eve of the unveiling of the PRI candidate) for what is somewhat exaggeratedly and optimistically called "public opinion" to make its presence felt and go on record with its concerns. With a little bit of luck, its concerns could be incorporated into the framework in which "the big decision" will be made: the decision of the only Mexican whose vote counts.

As the theoreticians of political democracy say in the countries that do have democracy, in the contemporary world this system does not necessarily insure rapid progress in economic development and does not by itself guarantee social justice.

According to them, one of the few things that the history of today's democracies seems to confirm is that this system fosters stability. Thus, on this point democracy is much like its antithesis: totalitarianism, under which stability is also the norm. From this perspective, instability would seem to be more common in those countries whose governments are neither democratic nor totalitarian, that is to say, systems like ours, the ones that are called authoritarian.

The above proposition, like all such propositions in the social sciences, has a great many exceptions. So far Mexico has been one of those exceptions, because in spite of being authoritarian, it is also a country that has had acceptable political stability since 1929. Nevertheless, I think that although until recently there was a real basis for Mexico's stability (it was the system's capacity to maintain economic growth and generate funding to meet the minimum demands of all segments of society), today this is no longer so certain. Hence, perhaps this proposal makes some sense: since in the short run it is doubtful whether Mexico can really overcome its major economic

crisis and regain its historic pace of growth (the real basis of its stability), then the other remaining path to assure social calm is to modify the political system, that is to say, replace the current model with one that can better resist the social pressures generated by inflation, unemployment, a declining economic growth rate, the polarization between rich and poor, etc.

The much talked about "economic reconversion," which has been announced as the underlying cure for our economic crisis, is going to take longer than prudence would advise. Also, its success is not all that certain, as it depends largely on circumstances beyond Mexico's control, such as, for example, international economic cycles, fluctuations in the prices of raw materials, protectionist policies in major foreign markets and other such things. In contrast, a transformation of our political system, while difficult, is a decision that can be implemented in a relatively short period of time, with the advantage that almost all the main variables are in the hands of domestic, not foreign players.

In principle, the shift to a political system that would provide more of a guarantee of stability could take either of the two directions: towards totalitarianism (left- or right-wing) or democracy. For geopolitical, historic and ethical reasons, a turn towards totalitarianism would be neither prudent nor acceptable. Therefore, the only path left leads towards democracy as the immediate goal.

Juan Linz, the Spanish political scientist who developed the theory of the authoritarian State, has shown how in Spain the transition from Franco's authoritarianism to democracy has lent the regime such strength that public opinion is prepared to defend it even though it has not exactly been a success in the economic sphere.

According to Linz, a series of polls conducted over this 10-year period in Spain show that although the majority of the respondents questioned the post-Franco system's ability to resolve the country's major economic problems, which had led to unemployment and slower growth, more than 80 percent of them also felt that democracy was the best system for Spain and only 11 percent wanted to replace it with a military or civilian-military government, in other words, a return to authoritarianism.

So then, the soon to be announced PRI candidate ought to place serious consideration of real political reform high on his agenda. Not the sort of reform that just calls for an increase in the number of deputies without addressing the underlying problem, but the kind that seemed to get under way at the start of this 6-year term but that was pigeonholed when the 1983 election returns made the government team nervous, the kind that means truly competitive elections, from which real political parties and a positive attitude on the part of the average Mexican towards the authorities, the government and the regime may emerge. Only in this way will the people in charge be respected and will the economic crisis not lead to a social explosion.

8743

CSO: 3248/205

BRIEFS

UNEMPLOYMENT, UNDEREMPLOYMENT FIGURES--The Labor Congress, the Finance and Public Credit Secretariat and top-level businessmen have agreed that open unemployment (those who used to have jobs but lost them or who have never had work) stands at 17.6 percent of the work force, in other words, 4.4 million workers, and that underemployment provides a subsistence living for 42 percent of the work force (close to 11 million). In all, 60 percent of the Mexican population lacks a sufficient, stable income. This situation is most conspicuous in large urban centers, where the population and economic, political and cultural activity are concentrated. Nevertheless, unemployment rates in Mexico City are said to be below the national average (between 4.5 and 7.5 percent, according to the sources). The explanation could be the concentration of jobs and, accordingly, of sources of subsistence and, for the same reason, underemployed workers who are better trained. [Excerpt] [Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 13 Dec 86 p 14] 8743

COLEGIO DE MEXICO MIGRATION STUDY--According to a Colegio de Mexico study, approximately 9,000 families arrive annually in the 2,000 Federal District metropolitan-area colonias [urban communities] and require public utilities once they have settled in the makeshift communities that they form. The study indicates that the 9,000 families that arrive in the Federal District from the interior need schools, transportation, hospitals and, above all, security and public utilities such as water, plumbing and electricity, which the municipal government will have to provide them. The study points out that in some capital cities in the interior, where farming is the main livelihood, services such as transportation, water, etc are three or four times more expensive than in the Federal District. Thus, the Colegio de Mexico indicates, activities such as street vending, etc have proliferated in the Federal District. [Text] [Mexico City EL DIA (METROPOLI supplement) in Spanish 30 Dec 86 p 1] 8743

CSO: 3248/207

SUPPORT FOR ARGENTINA IN SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFLICT

Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 3 Feb 87 p 12

[Editorial: "New Tension in the South Atlantic"]

[Text] The British decision to establish a fish conservation zone around the Malvinas Islands has rekindled tension in the South Atlantic. On the one hand, it shows that London has maintained its intransigent position of defending its presence throughout the disputed territory. On the other, it shows that its presence not only includes policing the area to insure security but goes further, encompassing the administration and exploitation of the territory.

The conservation zone extends to 150 miles around the islands. Vessels that want to fish there will have to secure licenses from Great Britain that could cost as much as \$120,000. It is significant that the great powers have implicitly accepted the decision, including the Soviet Union, which has so announced officially. Other nations have applied for the licenses as well, thus accepting the authority that the occupying power exercises on the islands of the archipelago.

Japanese fishing firms, which use systems that enable them to exploit fishing resources on a massive scale, have announced that they are prepared to cast their nets in the region, obviously after securing the license that Great Britain requires. We cannot ignore, by the way, that massive fishing in the region may significantly upset the ecological balance and radically diminish existing resources.

What is important is that the British position comes on top of London's announcements that it would rule out any discussion on sovereignty. Thus, the discussions between Argentina and Great Britain would remain the same pretentious dialogue of the deaf that previously led the negotiations into a dead end and indirectly triggered the war which is still remembered for its heavy bloodshed.

Paraguay has lent its support to the Argentine position, in keeping with the traditional solidarity born of our historical and cultural bonds. In addition, the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty (TIAR) requires that the nations of the Americas pledge to support Argentina in the defense of a

territory that it regards as legitimately its own, especially so in the case of a war triggered by the invasion of a power from outside the continent.

Under these circumstances, our country will once again in all certainty lend its support to our sister nation. The reasons are our past ties, our common culture, geopolitics and the strong conviction that progress in the region necessarily depends on greater integration among our nations. This conviction unfailingly conditions our foreign policy and represents a frame of reference for any course of action we may undertake in this sphere.

In another vein, as a landlocked country, we should remember that the Paraguayan Foreign Ministry has on other occasions stated for the record that nations without a seacoast are entitled to have access to the natural resources of the oceans. Such a statement, made public several years ago, asserted the right of Paraguay and other landlocked nations to share the ocean's resources with the nations that have coastlines. This principle also flows naturally and harmoniously from the policy of opening up broad avenues for regional integration.

In keeping with these views, Paraguay will take its stand on the unilateral decision of an extracontinental power to turn the fishing zone around the Malvinas Islands into a preserve. Once again, we will support a sister nation's policy of undertaking peaceful negotiations with the best of intentions on the longstanding issue of sovereignty in the region under dignified conditions that respect, above all, the process of decolonization in the hemisphere.

8743

CSO: 3348/218

COLORADO GROUP ISSUES 1987 COMMUNIQUE

Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 28 Jan 87 p 6

[Text] 1986 was a very active year, politically speaking, for the Colorado Authenticity Movement (MAC). It was the year that it consolidated itself as an organization and an institution.

Spurred by the dynamism of events, the various internal sectors, movements, groups and opinion currents of Coloradismo made their stands and grievances increasingly clear. Inasmuch as the MAC's own identity, frame of reference, positions, grievances and programs were thus better clarified, they were also better understood, appropriately evaluated and increasingly supported by party members.

The MAC thus greets the new political year with great optimism, in the conviction that major events conducive to the process of party unity that began on 27 October 1955 and to achieving and refining Paraguayan democracy will take place within the party and among all of the country's institutions during the year.

Reaffirmation of Philosophy and Program

The MAC, which was born as a current of opinion on 29 September 1980, is currently a solid internal nationalist political movement of the glorious Colorado Party and identifies fully and rationally with the higher values (ideology, philosophy, program) of Caballerismo, which dates back to the dawn of the party, and with those of Abstentionism during its perilous period out of power and with those of triumphant Guionismo since 1945.

The MAC's Major Objectives

The two great patriotic and noble objectives of the MAC are that the Republican National Association (ANR), the Colorado Party, will become the permanent and refined political tool of Paraguayan nationalism in service to the entire citizenry to forge Paraguay's destiny of greatness, and that the MAC will be the catalyst of the majority nationalist wing of Coloradismo.

The following are fundamental prerequisites for consolidating and hastening Paraguay's destiny of greatness, which is the supreme task in which the people

and the government are engaged: the process of party unity that began on 27 October 1955, must be made more democratic and pluralist, so that with the broadest involvement of the authentic party leaders of each and every sector, movement, opinion current and group that come to terms, we can validly move on to the necessary and appropriate updating of the Declaration of Principles, Government Program and Bylaws of the ANR, in keeping with the spirit of the historic Founding Manifesto of 11 September 1877 and the Programs and Declaration of Principles of 1938 and 1957. These organizational and institutional updatings will also have to be consistent with the unwavering desire for restoration that has been reflected in the major structural changes that have taken place in recent decades; then, under the sponsorship of Coloradismo once in power, the constitution of 1967 must necessarily be reformed so that its ideology and philosophy are consonant with the true values, ideals, interests and yearnings of the Paraguayan people, thus giving the country a truly nationalist Paraguayan constitution.

Party Unity

If we leave aside issues having to do with the validity of programs and philosophies and other issues relating to the specific requirements of the conditions under which parties operate, the strength of a political party is directly and immediately related to the unity among its ranks, all the more so when the party is in power. Nevertheless, such unity must entail democratic pluralism, at least in the sphere of program and methods, if not on substantive philosophical issues, given that it is altogether impossible to achieve uniformity of relations and operations in major pluralistic parties.

Since groups, opinion currents and sectors will inevitably appear, it is a party's political task to provide organizationally and functionally for its own enrichment and strength (internal democracy) by making available appropriate avenues of expression for the emergence, growth, multiplication and disappearance of such groups. In order to preserve and refine party unity, the sectors, opinion currents and groups in each party must not engage in mere sectarianism, damaging struggles for dominance, mere internecine feuds or crude atavistic cannibalism, thus undermining through false short cuts the very power of the parties as wholes. In short, unity amid variety, based on mutual respect among and organizational channels for sectors, opinion currents and groups, is perhaps the only valid formula for securing, preserving and refining much sought-after party unity.

Party unity is an ideal, a quasi-utopia, and even though it is unattainable, it is a deep source of motivation and mobilization. The ideal of unity, functioning as a sort of legendary unity, is like the "inaccessible peak" that one always tries to scale without ever completely succeeding. Unity is an ongoing challenge...an undertaking with its ups and downs...forward movement amid light and darkness.

Party Unity in Coloradismo

The date 27 October 1955 is a momentous political landmark in the history of Coloradismo because on that day, with a devotion to unity, laying aside sectarianism and revenge, forgetting wrongs and ill will, its great leaders,

the ones who made access to power possible in 1947, freely and democratically took on the commitment to work jointly thenceforth for the ideal of party unity, to strengthen the Association of Free Men that Bernardino Caballero founded and to make possible his magnificent nationalist government program. Such is the importance of that political exploit for unity, pluralism and democracy. Without it, peace and the magnificent infrastructure for development that has happily been erected in the ensuing decades would have been difficult, if not impossible.

The Patriotic Act of Unity of 27 October 1955

The momentous party reunion of 27 October 1955 came about because conditions were strikingly favorable for the leaders of the two major sectors of Coloradismo, Guiones and Democrats, to meet freely, spontaneously and hopefully and work on an equal footing with mutual respect. Indeed, the fall of Mr Federico Chaves on 4 May 1954 marked the end of the reactionary "neoliberal" government that the "democratic" sector installed on 11 September 1949. The leaders of Guionismo, who were the main people behind the rise to power on 13 January 1947 and the establishment of the Nationalist Revolutionary Democratic Government, realized that what happened on 4 May 1954 was clearly a rectifying political event in that it put an end to the counterrevolutionary, liberalizing movement that the "Chaves Democrats" had imposed and thus enabled them (Guionismo) to resume and strengthen the nationalist, democratic, pluralist and revolutionary movement that had begun in 1947. Thus, the fraternal gathering was possible because the "Guiones" and "Democrats" freely and spontaneously heeded the appeal for unity, the former with a mind to resume their struggle for and service to the renewed nationalist revolution of Coloradismo; and the latter seeking to maintain the total control that they had achieved over the government bureaucracy and perhaps to monopolize power again.

Having accurately interpreted the great yearnings and underlying expectations of Coloradismo and having fostered and supported the 27 October 1955 attempt at unity was unquestionably one of Gen Alfredo Stroessner's smartest political moves, as he thus made possible, to a large degree, his ongoing, stable and fruitful government efforts to this date.

Sabotaging and Subordinating the Unity Movement

What happened afterwards is all too well known. "Chavismo" managed quickly to control, until a very short time ago, the workings of the State's political security apparatus and pursued an increasingly repressive policy against all of the other internal groups in Coloradismo and against opposition parties, citing as its excuse the alleged "defense" of the national government. Thus, the "Guiones," "Epifanistas," "Zacariistas," "Estigarribistas," "Verticalistas," and "Mopoquistas," "Liberals" and "Febreristas," etc, etc, became personally familiar with scheming, persecution and ostracism.

To summarize: the unity movement that began on 27 October 1955 was regrettably sabotaged and then subordinated to complete "Chavismo" dominance in Coloradismo and in the government until the 1984 Party Convention, when for the first time in three decades the dominance of "Chavismo" was questioned and

challenged at the very foundation of its apparatus of control. Thus, the 1984 Convention is comparable in significance to the rectifying exploit of 4 May 1954, because since then the entire country has been witness to the "dismantling" of the enormous oligarchic, plutocratic, Herod-like, repressive apparatus of dominant, neoliberal "Chavismo." Since then everything has changed in the party's erstwhile routine and paralyzing internal activities; the doors to normal democratic patriotism have been reopened; responsible institutional pluralism has sprung up anew; democracy is an everyday event in rank and file organizations; the entire Colorado constituency is mobilizing alongside its legitimate leaders. In short, everyone can see that Coloradismo is renewing itself, is strengthening the higher values and programs of its noble nationalist cause, its solid support for the revolutionary, constructive and unifying efforts of Army Gen Alfredo Stroessner, under whose leadership it will hone, day after day, the movement towards party unity that happily began on 27 October 1955.

Paradoxes in the Party Unity Movement

It is indeed paradoxical to assert that the tendency in Coloradismo is towards unity, not division or "fragmentation-atomization." It so happens that the sectarian and repressive dominance of "Chavismo" (1950-1983) steadily charged the atmosphere of traditional civic and political competition that had been a regular feature of party pluralism from 1891 on. "Caballerismo" versus "Egusquicismo," "Abstentionism" versus "Involvement," "Guionismo" versus "Democrats" and "Chavismo" versus ? The party lapsed into a sort of enervating, routine, repetitive and civically and politically unproductive immobility, the logical consequence of which was a genuine political crisis in the ruling party, naturally stemming from a nationwide social and economic crisis.

From the above it is easy to see why the urgent need to meet the historic challenge of this crisis entails, above all, finding a political solution, the sine qua non of which is Coloradismo unity as a ruling party, based on the political principle of unity amid variety among those who can come to terms. So then, the emergence of new groups and opinion currents are not a sign of rifts or fragmentation. Rather, they reveal that the "Chavista" dominance, with its dogma of "rock-hard unity," has been abolished once and for all and that a dialogue among the various sectors, opinion currents and groups is imminent, inasmuch as none of them can impose, as in previous eras, the dominance of new and arbitrary sectarianisms because they cannot orchestrate potential antidemocratic alliances, coups, uprisings, rebellions or civil war. The noteworthy institutional maturity and the republican, democratic and constitutionalist patriotism that are permanent norms of conduct among the members of our glorious Armed Forces, the primary guardian and ultimate protector of Paraguayan nationalism, are a necessary and sufficient guarantee of democracy, pluralism and nationalism in Modern Paraguay today and in the future.

Setbacks and Imponderables

History offers many examples of the imponderables that can thwart or distort a chain of events. The current political juncture is strikingly favorable to a

qualitative improvement in the aforementioned direction. Nevertheless, driven by a tendency to see things as black or white and by residual atavisms, some "political leaders" are reluctant to allow reason and prudence to prevail over emotions and memories. Specifically, some "leaders" persist in their intransigence, sectarianism, personality cults, personal enmities, revanchism, greed, etc, and they could perhaps thwart or impede the inexorable movement towards unity, democracy, pluralism and nationalism in which Coloradismo is engaged, the repercussions from which will touch the entire nation.

It would be truly regrettable if the younger generations or other segments of society were dazzled into believing in short cuts and became politically ensnared in regressive, ineffectual and alienating stands, thus fostering extremism in the form of anarchy, terrorism, communism, faddish materialism-hedonism, etc. The deleterious activities of certain local "leaders" are now being compounded by strong antinational pressure, meddling and aggression from the outside, which is having a directly detrimental effect on the eminently constructive movement towards unity and peace.

For example, how are we to interpret the arguments and counterarguments that have been advanced in Coloradismo in connection with Ambassador Taylor's speech about the jamming of Radio Nanduti?

There are valuable lessons to be learned from the specific events that are public knowledge. The nationalist sensibilities of the Paraguayan Government concerning issues of sovereignty, independence, noninterference in the internal affairs of other States, etc remain the same as in the most difficult times of our history. The Paraguayan people will mobilize promptly and en masse in support and defense of their government leaders in the face of any attack on the State and its authorities. The rank and file organizations of Coloradismo are unquestionably vanguards of mobilization when it comes to defending the State and its officials. The voice of rank and file leaders rings out as the true voice of the people (Vox Populi, Vox Dei) in times of aggression against our country from abroad. There are vestigial elements who are carrying on the sellout "line" of the ill-famed, treasonous legionnaires. Such is the case with the self-styled "opinion makers" (a pseudo political committee) of the "Chavista" oligarchy. Its unofficial spokesman in the "Taylor affair," Dr Pedro Hugo Pena, still has dreams of great legions of antinational dissidents joining his own personal sectarian hosts. He does not realize (there is none so blind as he who will not see) that the glorious Colorado Party of Bernardino Caballero has nothing to do with the "party" of Juan B. Egusquiza, which Federico Chaves revived and made over until its demise on that radiant dawn of 4 May 1954. The attempts to create rifts and confusion have no place in Coloradismo, not even amid crises deliberately brought on by international forces or powers.

Final Words

Through this responsible and brotherly message, the Colorado Authenticity Movement once again fulfills the hopes that numerous fellow party members throughout the republic have placed in its political activities. We urge them to redouble their efforts to lay a broader and better groundwork for the reign of reconciliation, respect, consideration and understanding within the unity

movement that the glorious Colorado Party has been engaged in since 27 October 1955.

Everything for pluralist and democratic party unity.
Everything for the reconciliation of the Colorado family.

Long live the glorious Colorado Party!!!

January 1987

On behalf of the Colorado Authenticity Movement

Esteban Duarte, vice president

Ruben Dario Veron, secretary general

Dr Mario Milciades Melgarejo, vice president and acting president

Dr Manuel Soria Rey, political secretary

Carlos Maria Rios Alvarenga, political secretary

8743

CSO: 3348/218

ROLE OF NEW CITY IN DEVELOPMENT OF EASTERN REGION VIEWED

Asuncion EL DIARIO (Special Supplement) in Spanish 3 Feb 87 pp 2-3

[Text] The founding of Presidente Stroessner City was unquestionably an event of far-reaching importance for the nation, inasmuch as it thus gained the sought-after prospect of securing another outlet for our products to external markets. Here are some of the scenes that took place on that historic date.

Just three decades have past since that memorable 3 February, and Presidente Stroessner City has more than justified the efforts that the government has put forth to build it.

Background

The government's decision to establish a new port along the eastern border with Brazil on 3 February 1957 was a corollary of other attempts to spur our overseas trade. One century before, in 1857, history tells us that Carlos Antonio Lopez planned to establish a reformatory in the region that was known at the time as the Valley of the Tacurupucu (Hernandarias).

The project was entrusted to Lt Jose Ignacio Aguilera and a group of families from the town of San Isidro de Curuguaty. Unfortunately, however, they did not succeed, and then came the War of the Triple Alliance to further postpone all existing plans. The country suffered a lengthy period of stagnation and, before it had even recovered, it was embroiled in another conflict, the Chaco War, which thwarted its plans for a stronger economy.

The Paraguay River was the country's only access to foreign markets, and thus its dependency was acute. The economic and political barriers to river navigation multiplied over the years, and the search for another outlet to the sea thus became an urgent need.

The great undertaking began in 1955. The president of the republic, Gen Alfredo Stroessner, through a Joint Paraguayan-Brazilian Commission, decided to build a road eastward and just 1 year later, in 1956, to establish a port in the Upper Parana, along the Brazilian border, to which end he set up an ad hoc commission chaired by then Interior Minister Dr Edgar L. Insfran and consisting of Gens Milciades Ramos Gimenez, Cesar Gagliardone, Anibal Martinez and Noel Lefebvre.

The founding of the port city, which was given the name of the man whose inspiration it was, took place on 3 February 1957, in the presence of high-level national authorities. "On a sunny morning amid a scene of magnificent color and grandeur," the newspaper EL PAIS said in its 4 February 1957 feature article about the ceremony on the banks of the rushing river.

The Founding Ceremony

The government's motivations in establishing the new port were clearly set forth during the founding ceremony. "The proper administration of the country obliges us to provide for the development of Caaguazu and the Upper Parana, the regions through which the international route passes," notes Government Decree No 24,634 of 28 January 1957, in which the interior minister is charged with building the new city in the east.

"The end of the route," the decree adds, "where it meets the future international port, will be located north of the current town of Puerto Presidente Franco. Therefore, a new town must be founded along the route, with appropriate resources for its development, to serve as a focal point for regional prospects and as a permanent link with the neighboring Republic of the United States of Brazil."

Elsewhere in the decree we read: "From today and forever more this new city will distinguish our relations as sister nations and become a place of repose on our way to the ocean and an emporium of wealth and progress for those who come to live here."

The Schedule of Events

The ceremony took place at around 1000 hours by the foot of a makeshift flagpole and a stone marking the future center of the city. The governmental decree founding the new port was read, after which Dr Insfran spoke. The founding document was then read, and three copies of it were signed by the guests.

One of the copies was deposited in a metal container at the foot of the stone. A message from the archbishop of Asuncion, Monsignor Anibal Mena Porta, was read, and after the stone was reset, a bugle call was played and Tomas Romero Pereira and Gen Marcial Samaniego hoisted the national flag. The apostolic nuncio of His Holiness, Monsignor Punzzolo, blessed the spot and headed a short procession as the ceremony closed with the playing of the national anthem.

Authorities in Attendance

Among those present at the ceremony, according to press accounts at the time, were Interior Minister Dr Edgar L. Insfran, National Defense Minister Gen Marcial Samaniego, Foreign Relations Minister Dr Raul Sapena Pastor, Justice and Labor Minister Dr Ezequiel Gonzalez Alsina, Finance Minister Gen Cesar Barrientos, and Public Health and Social Welfare Minister Dr Enrique Zacarias.

Also attending were Industry and Commerce Minister Dr Favio Da Silva; the president of the Government Junta and minister without portfolio, Tomas Romero Pereira; the apostolic nuncio of His Holiness, Dr Luis Punzzolo; the Brazilian ambassador, Dr Luis Guimaraes Gomes; other high-level military authorities from our country and Brazil, and members of foreign missions.

Period of National Resurgence

In its 4 February 1957 edition EL PAIS referred to the project as follows: "In an exceptional and splendid ceremony yesterday along the banks of the roaring Parana and facing the marvelous, brotherly land of Brazil, a new city was founded. It will bear the name Puerto Presidente Stroessner, and with good reason, because of the immense patriotic work that the nation's chief executive has accomplished. During this stupendous period of national resurgence, it marks the beginning of another of the government's many forward-looking achievements."

It adds: "Nothing could be more encouraging and comforting to the soul of our homeland, nothing better and grander, nothing more brilliant and worthy of record in the annals of our history, than the laying of the cornerstone of a new town that springs up like some rare flower symbolizing a bright and promising future for the Paraguayan nation."

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PROSPECTS FOR 1987 HIGHLIGHTED BY MAJOR PROJECTS

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 3 Jan 87 p 1

[Text]

TWO very significant events taking place this week adequately summed up the year 1986, and placed their stamp on confirming the kind of year this has been. On the one hand, the cornerstone-laying ceremony for the new SEANTEL Telephone Exchange, which is described in the next column on this page, was typical of the kind of progress which has been registered in the development of infrastructure and construction throughout this year. On the other hand, the news reaching us on Monday that St. Kitts and Nevis has been nominated for the third year in succession as "FREEST NATION IN THE WORLD" is not at all surprising or the least bit unexpected.

When it comes to FREEDOM, we have the grim reminder of the vicious and prolonged series of libellous statements perpetrated by the Opposition newspaper and one of its columnists against the Prime Minister of this country. The judgment of the Court of Appeal unanimously dismissing with costs the appeal brought by Fitzroy Bryant only serves to highlight the FREEDOM enjoyed by the Opposition in this country, in being able to publish "over 20 libels" against the Head of Government here.

As for infrastructure, upcoming in the New Year is the start of construction of the \$20 Million South East Peninsula Road Project. In addition, we are currently enjoying the best ever tourist cruise ship season, with 100 calls expected. Nevis is making great strides, as revealed in the Budget Address delivered by Premier Daniel in the Nevis Island Assembly just before Christmas. The \$9 Million Newcastle Airport extension is due to start in the New Year, not to mention several new hotels.

In St. Kitts, a whole range of major projects are due to start during this next twelve months such as the \$4 Million Electricity Generator Installation at Needyhurst, which will take care of our projected needs up to and including 1994 in the most reliable, efficient and least costly way. On the Industrial Estate at Ponds Pasture, a strong showing in new industries is expected to be well monitored and promoted by the establishment early in the year of a brand new Industrial Development Corporation. But most encouraging of all was the balanced, no-tax Budget for 1987 revealed the substantial reduction in the Annual Deficit while at the same time announcing the payment for the long-disputed so-called Sugar Lands.

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CSO: 3298/146

ST CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

BRIEFS

NEVIS BUDGET—The Nevis Island Administration presented its Budget for the year 1987 in the Island Assembly on Monday and Tuesday of this week. Premier and Minister of Finance the Hon Simeon Daniel delivered his Budget Address for Nevis on Monday. The projected revenue for 1987, according to measured constitutionally approved in the Independence Constitution of 1983, is \$10,258,100, giving a deficit of \$3 million overall. The Nevis Island Budget is provided for by means of a special safeguard designed to grant greater autonomy and self-determination to Nevis. [Text] [Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 27 Dec 86 p 2] /9274

CSO: 3298/146

GOVERNMENT, WORKERS AT ODDS OVER WAGES DISPUTE

Issues at Stake

Castries CRUSADER in English 24 Jan 87 p 5

[Nicholas Joseph column "Tete-a-tete": "To Strike or Not To Strike"]

[Text]

The Government of the UWP insist that its record of Industrial stability is perfect. It is usually loud in its boasting of its "achievements" in creating political and industrial

peace but the truth is that the Government is the main obstacle to political and Industrial Peace.

This week the Civil Service association issued another call for Government to settle the back-pay issue or face strike action in the weeks ahead. The call came as the Association prepares itself for its second biennial convention to be held here today. (Saturday)

C.S..MUST ACT

It is about time that the CSA and other public sector Unions stop threatening and put their feet down by taking action if they truly believe that they stand on a point of principle. There is absolutely no law in the country which demands that one party must give-and-take and the other

side must continue to display its contempt, its arrogance and its insensitivity as has been consistently demonstrated by the Government. This back-pay issue has dragged on for too long, and if the CSA does not act speedily the Government will move viciously and maliciously to crush them once and for all.

GOVERNMENT HAS NO CASE

"Agreements must be observed," was the statement of Justice Albert Matthew in the courts a few weeks ago. It was not in reference to this matter, but the principle involved is the same. The question of back-pay came on the scene when the Government after negotiating with Public Service Unions went to Cabinet and took a unilateral decision to change the effective date of the collective agreement, which would cause public servants to lose one year's payment.

When the issue was raised the Government said categorically that it could not afford to pay.

However, while Government was blasting and cursing public servants for demanding more than the country can afford, the same Government turned its back on its own argument and awarded Ministers and Parliamentarians a massive pay-hike of 57-100 percent. By this act of double standards the Government defeated its case and laid it void and open. The question is why must Government Ministers (most of them doing no work), get pay increases while hard-working and honest public servants must lose a whole year's pay due to Government's high-handedness? Besides what kind of example is the Government attempting to show, by so blatantly dis-honouring an agreement which was negotiated in good-faith (at least on the part of the Unions).

Attempts by the Prime Minister to justify this act has only assisted to compound the issue as the Government showed no spirit of compromise despite all the efforts by the unions to bend-backward. Undoubtedly the Unions may have bend backward too much and the Government sensing this apparent weakness rode-rough shod on their backs, accusing the leadership of being political stooges.

True, that the leadership have their political affiliation and true some of them may be stooges, but there is absolutely no justification for dis-honouring the "Collective Agreement" signed between two parties.

THE PAY OFFER

When the Government realised that the issue was becoming too-hot-to handle on the eve of an

election, and public opinion was swinging on the side of public servants the Prime Minister resorted to the House-Of Assembly and using all the privileges afforded him, unleashed a bitter tongue lashing against the Unions. The attacks were as old as Compton's creased and wrinkled face, but it was a move on the eve of Christmas calculated to divide and ultimately to destroy the labour movement. Surely Compton's decision to pay 75 percent just before Christmas was not an after thought. It was a clever political move, and the thinking behind it was that public servants would gladly receive any amount at this particular time of year.

Despite this obvious move, easily detected by many school boys the St. Lucia Labour Party's "NEW MASK" Julian Hunte failed to understand the situation and warned of industrial Action. The Union themselves took some time to read the move, but correctly advised its members to accept the 75 percent and promised to struggle for the balance in the NEW YEAR. There was no industrial instability as Hunte has so wrongly predicted.

One thing is clear, the moment that the Government offered to pay 75 percent it admitted defeat and the public servants are under no obligation to negotiate on the amount which must be paid. They want all their money and the Government is legally obligated to pay them all. Let us stop pussy-footing...Government must either pay the balance of 25 percent or feel the force of public pressure.

TOO LONG

Writing in this very column in October 1986, on the topic- POWERLESS LABOUR POWER LESS PEOPLE I made the point that the unions were now weak, feeble and have lost their clout. Certain half-made Trade Unionists took objections to this statement and was around the street corners spreading their dirty propaganda that it was an attack on the Trade Union Movement.

Today I reiterate that the only reason why the Unions have taken so long to act forcefully on the issue is because they are not as strong and powerful as they were in the 70's. I repeat "what was once a powerful force is now weak, divided and ineffective. Trade Unionism which once meant serious organisations for mobilising workers is now the touch-stone to opportunism, what was once a bastion for hard-work and struggle is now a paradise for lazy bastards, masquerading in the name of the workers. What

was once an organisation for commitment and sacrifice is now an establishment for money - making and joy-rides."

Admittedly, the apparent division in the ranks of the political opposition in the country to a great extent contributes to the indecisiveness of the LABOUR MOVEMENT. If the forces of LABOUR were firing on all its pistons then the unions would be in a stronger position to fight those who are against the workers' interest.

All is not lost, the workers can reclaim their own organisation and make them once again strong and powerful. The workers must UNITE despite the obvious moves in the St. Lucia Labour Party and certain local trade Unionists to prevent it.

The forth coming general election must be the astrigent spray which will cleanse the political stables and give workers once again their Right to STRIKE OR NOT TO STRIKE!

Government Warning

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 24 Jan 87 pp 1, 3

[Text]

THE Government yesterday warned that those attempting to disrupt the public services must be prepared to bear full responsibility.

It was reacting to a threat of industrial action by the Civil Service Association to back up its demand for the remaining 25 percent of backpay due to its members from the Government.

An official statement yesterday said that public servants were being encouraged to take action which was "irresponsible" and which would seriously damage the island's economy.

It noted St. Lucia now had the largest and costliest of public services in the entire OECS, cost in salaries, allowances and fixed wages is approximately \$5 million every month or \$250,000 for every working day of the year.

"In spite of this high cost, because of the unemployment situation in St. Lucia, Government has not adopted the policy to reduce the cost by reducing the numbers employed as was done in many of the neighbouring countries where public service employees were dismissed by the hundreds.

"In order to keep the public services at the present level, however, a number of programmes and projects important to the development of St. Lucia, have either had to be scrapped or postponed; the level of maintenance of the roads and public buildings has had to be reduced, and the public has been denied many of the amenities such as roads, water and electricity which Government would otherwise have provided."

"It said that since 1982, Government had been forced to borrow over \$14.2 million to meet public services salaries

and allowances and had been unable to repay any of this amount, not even the interest, which was overdue.

"Compounding our problems, St. Lucia between October and December, 1986 suffered as a result of heavy rains, floods and land slides, over \$10 million in damage to roads, retaining walls and water supplies, all over the island and in many of the towns and villages.

"Although appeals were made for assistance from external agencies, none was received, and the entire cost of repairs to roads, bridges, retaining walls and buildings must be met out of our resources. These repairs cannot be delayed and must be carried out now."

The statement said that, apart from the seasonal drop in consumption of bananas at this time, the very bad winter in Britain had made it impossible to distribute St. Lucia's bananas and hundreds of thousands of boxes were being left back in St. Lucia to prevent a collapse of the market. This represented a substantial loss to the economy.

Added the statement: "It is important to observe that those representing the Public Service workers were informed very early that Government revenues had not performed as well as had been anticipated. And upon this well known and proven fact was based government's request to the representatives of the Public Service workers to accept the government offer."

It added: "These representatives sat and negotiated with government, refused to accept 50 per cent back-pay without deducting Income Tax, but agreed to consider 75 per cent with income tax deducted therefrom."

"It was only after the Resolution to borrow the money to pay the backpay in settlement of this issue, had been passed by Parliament and the Public Service workers had apparently agreed to accept it, that the representatives of the Public Service workers, and not the majority of the workers, who in fact were never consulted, publicly raised their voices advising the workers to accept this amount only as part payment."

"And when they added the condition that the balance should be paid before general elections these representatives at last revealed to the full light of day how a matter which they claimed was purely based on industrial relations, had in fact been adulterated with politics, with the public workers themselves being used as innocent pawns."

"But the representatives who negotiated with Government knew all along that the offer of 75 per cent was made as a final settlement, and they were also fully aware that Government would have to borrow the money to effect this payment."

"Another salient point to make is that once a Trade Union sits with an employer to negotiate a settlement on any issue, this at once implies a willingness by both sides to depart eventually from fixed positions, in order to arrive at a mutually acceptable compromise. The government moved from a position of zero offer to 75 per cent. The union representatives have up to now not bridged from their 100 per cent, thus proving that they were all the while negotiating in bad faith, determined not to achieve a settlement in the true spirit of industrial relations."

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CS0: 3298/154

PLP ORGAN EXAMINES HUNTE'S REJECTION OF UNITY STEPS

Castries CRUSADER in English 24 Jan 87 p 2

[Text]

When Cana Radio this week put the obvious question about Opposition Unity in St. Lucia to SLP leader Julian Hunte the interviewer met with a brusque reaction. "Why does everyone keep asking me that question? I do not know what PLP is doing but I have nothing to do with PLP or Odium. We can win this election alone." The reply was indeed brusque, testy, superficial and grossly inadequate.

The Cana questioner laid the basis for a more reasoned reply by suggesting that the results of the Trinidad and Tobago elections was a sharp indicator that consolidated Opposition Parties could sweep away entrenched Parties. Mr. Hunte was simply not interested in reasoning. He settled for a mindless "attitudinisation" (to use a phrase from Dr. Johnson)

The reason why Mr. Hunte is so defensive and sensitive about this question is that he has no reasoned explanation to give for his "I will not talk" attitude. In addition to this the most plausible explanation cannot be given to

the public which is already suspicious of Mr. Hunte's real motive.

Curiously enough Mr. Hunte's first testy reaction to the question was a "give-away." Why does everyone keep asking me that question? Surely if everyone keeps asking you that question this is generally worrying to people and it is a question which they cannot understand or resolve. If then it is so problematic a question then it is an insult both to Cana and to the public to answer the question in so superficial a manner.

Mr. Hunte cannot simply take refuge in a stubborn dogmatic irrationality which wants no truck with PLP and Odium.

This mind-set can determine whether St. Lucia gets a new Government or not and Mr. Hunte's experience in political decision-making is not wide enough for the voting public to have confidence in an unreasoned attitude adopted by him.

Even the opinion that the SLP can win alone seems almost

farcical to most St. Lucians because it is unsubstantiated by any verifiable evidence. The SLP tried to bridge this gap by announcing the results of a bogus poll which they purported to have conducted. The Poll itself exposed more sharply their capacity for fooling themselves and trying to hoodwink the public.

Over the past year the inability of the SLP to move the ground in St. Lucia is very revealing given the amount of money they have spent in the process of trying to do so. Their need to resort to the device of moving supporters from the South to give an illusion of members on the Market steps tells a sad and ominous story.

Mr. Hunte might have been told by his Public Relations stunt-men that repeating an opinion a number of times might cause it to be accepted as a fact, and the snowball-syndrome might make it a reality. If he tells his radio audience often enough that SLP can win ALONE it might just create the desired effect despite the mathematics of elections, despite the quality of candidates, despite the credibility of the Leadership, despite the internal squabbles of the Party and despite the mood of the people. This is a large gamble for St. Lucia to take on Mr. Hunte's say-so!

Mr. Hunte's refusal to talk to the PLP and his rejection of OPPOSITION UNITY is untenable for the following reasons:

No Leader who is interested in the total mobilisation of a country can refuse to hold dialogue in the interest of such mobilisation.

No Leader who claims to be DEMOCRATIC can refuse to dia-

logue, discuss or debate when the political future of the people of St. Lucia is involved. No Leader who is serious about the removal of the UWP can refuse to seek for the consolidation of Labour Opposition.

No Leader with an interest in forming an efficient Government would turn down the opportunity of dialogue and consolidation.

No Leader who studied the results of the last General Election in St. Lucia could miss the obvious conclusions to be drawn from them.

No Leader with enough vision to envisage the results of a three-cornered fight could queer his pitch with a total rejection of the PLP.

With these points in mind it is obvious that Mr. Hunte must have very good personal or private reasons for his OBSTRUCTIONISM.

If, as some claim, his concerns turn on the leadership slot in any consolidation then he is really between the Devil and the deep blue sea since only an accommodation with the PLP would give him a chance in Gros Islet and there are those within his own Party anxiously awaiting his defeat in that constituency.

Another view is that Mr. Hunte is playing a "spoiler" role in keeping the Opposition split to enable the ruling UWP to romp home as part of a grand international design. Of course this is pure speculation and it is only the elaborate funding of the SLP campaign which gives a hint of credence to this theory.

Our conclusion, therefore, can only be that the question WHY NO OPPOSITION UNITY is one that Mr. Hunte CAN answer but DARES NOT!

REPORT ON PLP RALLY, SPEAKERS AT CASTRIES MARKET

Castries CRUSADER in English 31 Jan 87 p 11

[Text]

After an unusually long spell of tactical silence the Progressive Labour Party burst into political life again on the Castries Market Steps on Thursday night; It was vintage market Steps stuff with a large crowd jamming the entire road way on Jérémie Street clustering six deep under the CDC Balcony and vehicle traffic parked bumper to bumper in the adjoining side streets;

After the SLP campaign to convince the people of St. Lucia that the Progressive Labour Party was dead and did not intend to contest the elections the Progressives came out with a professionalism which virtually showed the SLP how mass meeting should be conducted; There were no hired transports no imported supporters; no packed platforms for organised applause; just the warm spontaneity of strong supporters and some curious voters who wanted a taste of PLP fare; The Hearts were back with a bang

Party Chairman Jon Odum introduced Vic Fadlin who moved into the attack putting the record

straight on the much maligned period of Labour rule from 1979 to 1982; He said that the UWPees were constantly trying to focus the minds of St. Lucians on this period as the most disgraceful period of Government rule in St. Lucia's history; But despite the so called Leadership Struggle the Progressives in the Labour Party were able to achieve a considerable amount of meaningful change He cited examples of positive achievements for the people during that period He said that the workers and the people generally were free to express themselves during that period and were not cowed with fear of an oppressive regime Vic Fadlin came over forceful, fluent and in command of the material he was dishing out

The next speaker was the young firebrand from Marchand Nicholas Joseph; He impressed everyone with his forceful dynamic style; Speaking in measured tones he modulated well and took the audience with him in a ringing parody of

Invader's new song 'It is Election Time Again

He piled ridicule on the antics of the Ministers of Government now that it is Election Time Again. The young Heartsman moved into a very earnest and forthright presentation of the Government's handling of the Public Servants Back-pay Dispute and pledged the support of the Progressive Labour Party for the Public Servants cause.

The final speaker of the night was Party Leader George Odium who

unleashed a scathing attack on the Government of the 'United Workers Party'. He described the last five years of P.L.P. rule as the most quietly vicious spell of Government ever experienced in this country. He quoted UWP Chairman Henry Giraudy's observation that the coming Election would be a quiet Election and he exhorted the people to go quietly into the ballot box and vote out the Flambeaus with a quiet viciousness similar to the quiet viciousness which characterised their period of office.

All in all it was a wonderful night for the Hearts as they kicked off their 1987 Election Campaign.

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CSO: 3298/154

ELECTORAL BOUNDARY CHANGE DEEMED POLITICALLY MOTIVATED

FL031440 Bridgetown CANA in English 2330 GMT 2 Feb 87

[Text] Castries, 2 Feb (CANA)--St Lucia's Elections and Boundaries Commission has agreed to two changes in the composition of constituencies for forthcoming general elections, a move criticised by the opposition.

The commission, which met here over the weekend, agreed to return the Fond St Jacques area as part of the Soufriere constituency, and has also brought back the area of Saltibus as part of Choiseul constituency.

During the 1982 elections residents of Saltibus voted in the Laborie constituency now being held by the SLP [St Lucia Labour Party] and considered to be a stronghold of the opposition party, while Fond St Jacques was linked to the Town of Soufriere, the island's third town situated on the southwest coast and controlled by the ruling United Workers Party (UWP).

This change does not alter the number of constituencies, but is seen by political observers as an attempt by the ruling party to strengthen its support in the Choiseul and Soufriere constituencies, seats now being held by the UWP.

The SLP representative on the commission, Tom Walcott, objected to what he said was the haste with which the meeting was summoned, having only been given 24 hours notice. He called for a one-week postponement to give himself more time to study the UWP request. But the ruling party outvoted the SLP and the request was upheld.

Walcott rejected the ruling party's claim that the move would result in greater convenience to residents and deemed the move purely political. He claimed the boundaries are being cut where the opposition is strong so that pockets of support can be eliminated.

Elections here are constitutionally due by August this year, but opposition parties are preparing for an April poll

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CSO: 3298/154

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE CITES DIVERSIFICATION PLANS

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 23 Jan 87 p A

[Text]

Minister of Agriculture and Trade Marcus De Freitas is calling on farmers locally and regionally to diversify in agriculture. The Minister's statement was triggered by the move by the US Government to reduce import quotas for sugar from Caribbean territories.

De Freitas said that diversification in agriculture would encourage an expansion in food processing. He noted that it was necessary to install infrastructure to facilitate the export of locally produced crops for regional and extra-regional markets. The Agriculture Minister spoke of installing a pre-cooling unit at the Port so that perishable vegetables would be

kept in a good state prior to export.

When asked what alternatives to sugar were possible, Mr. De Freitas said that cut flowers, and introductions of exotic tropical crops such as the Carambola and other hybrids including mangoes, avocado, yams and sweet potatoes were all expected to provide additional sources of income for farmers.

Mr. De Freitas also said that transportation by air and sea was still a problem, but that plans were being made to operate an air cargo service out of St. Vincent to extra-regional markets, not only for agricultural produce but also for locally manufactured products.

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CSO, 3298/147

PEOPLE'S POLITICAL PARTY CANDIDATE RUNS IN BY-ELECTION

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 23 Jan 87 p 2

[Text]

Percival Stapleton will contest the East Kingstown . Constituency By-election on the ticket People's Political Party of the veteran Politician Ebenezer Joshua's PPP. The PPP officially launched its candidate at a Public Meeting in the Market Square this week.

Stapleton says that he was actively involved in politics in Trinidad and Tobago for three years being Chairman of the People's

National Movement (PNM) Diego Martin East Constituency Group. He said he was also the campaign Manager for that group.

Stapleton is Vincentian by birth but lived for several years in Trinidad where he studied Business Management and was actively involved in promoting sports and culture. He hopes to continue these promotions in St. Vincent.

If Stapleton wins the election, his major objective will be to work in the best interest of the people.

He will pay serious attention, to employment, agro industry, roads and the community at large emphasising Medical Care and Education. Mr. Stapleton has also avowed his intention of motivating the re-building of the People's Political Party. It has been claimed by PPP that a vote for him is a vote for Progress, Stability, Peace and Justice.

Stapleton's symbol is The Clock, well-known for many years as the Symbol of the PPP.

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CSO: 3298/147

COLUMNIST DISCUSSES BACKGROUND OF PARTY POLITICS

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 23 Jan 87 p 4

[Ken John column "This Week"; "Soufriere Politics"]

[Text]

A few weeks ago a rumour connected with a Volcanic eruption spread like wild-fire. We were treated to the full works.

To begin with, we had one of those clairvoyants, really a prophet of doom, being accorded the courtesy of a hearing and publication over Radio 705 of his nightmare of a local Armageddon in the making.

Next we had a thunder-storm coming from the general direction of La Soufriere, with its deafening claps of thunder and dazzling flashes of lightning. That was enough to trigger off the wildest imaginings of the fertile Vincentian mind.

Telephones rang all through the night. The overseas circuit was jammed. Soufriere was erupting. People were moving out of Georgetown and Chateaubelair. Official efforts were being made to evacuate the island. Inhabitants of Kingstown were actually smelling the sulphur. Bequia-folk

missed the opportunity of collecting much needed water during the down-pour in cutting off the electric pumps to avoid fire, and to save the precious water from ash.

Then the rumour was dispelled. A sudden calm descended. Everything returned to normal, as if nothing untoward had ever taken place. Nobody even bother to suggest that we give a piece of our mind to that devilish seer whose bad dream was probably prompted by indigestion.

This columnist wants to suggest that a similar pattern of behaviour is unfolding during this by-election campaign. A thriving propaganda industry is churning out rumour that is more thunderous than enlightening, but people are acting on their child-like belief in such fatuous nonsense. Then after February 2 we will swiftly settle down to the business of normal living, as if nothing had ever happened. Until the next time around.

A DOWN-RIGHT LIE

Perhaps because Parnell Campbell is generally viewed as the frontrunner, is a candidate for the ruling party, and is himself a personality that evokes strong reactions one way or the other, most of the lies and propaganda are directed at him. He is seen as the man to beat at any price, the candidate to cut down at all costs. No quarter is spared.

For example, without batting any eye, Burns Bonadie and Company claim that Parnell Campbell jumped from party to party. Nothing could be further from the truth. The bald facts are that in 1969 Parnell Campbell, Eddie Griffith and myself (among others) founded the Educational Forum of the People, an agitational group. In 1974 the E.F.P turned political with the formation of the Democratic Freedom Movement. In 1978, the D.F.M. Incorporated Carlyle Dougan's People's United Congress (P.U.C.) under the merged label

People's Democratic Movement.

Eddie Griffith left the P.D.M. during the following year and re-surfaced in the N.D.P. four years later. With Eddie's absence in 1979 the P.D.M. entered into an ill-fated six-month Alliance with Yulimo and Arwee under the umbrella United People's Movement in which all three component parties continued to maintain their separate and distinct identities. For ideological reasons, the P.D.M. left this unholy Alliance in 1980. A solitary front-line P.D.M. member, Robert FitzPatrick, chose to remain with the Yulimo-Arwee grouping which decided to fuse into a single party that hijacked the U.P.M. name-plate.

On the basis of the foregoing, it really is stretching commonsense to vanishing point to hold that P.R. changed from Forum, to D.F.M., to P.D.M. to U.P.M. And, from my own personal knowledge P.R. never joined Labour between 1980, when P.D.M. began to fade away and 1984 when he re-joined Eddie in the N.D.P. Clearly, overtures had been made to him by Labour's emissaries in the interim but there is not a shred of evidence to suggest that he either responded positively or in any

way gave them cause for hope.

Of the by-election candidates only Emery Robertson can be said to fit this bill. In 1972 he ran as a P.P.P. candidate; in 1974 on behalf of the Mitchell-Sylvester Alliance; in 1979 on an N.D.P. ticket; and this time around he claims to be the forerunner of a brand-new Party that is yet to see the light of day. But, for reasons of their own, the other Opposition forces have decided to leave Emery severely alone in this regard. P.R. on the other hand is fair game for all.

THE OFFENDING POSTER

No where is this more clearly seen than in the choleric outburst of three Opposition Parties: M.N.U., Labour and U.P.M. - in that order - at a Poster on which photographs of Parnell Campbell and Eddie appear.

Personally, I can see no indecency in the poster especially in the light of the brotherly relations that existed between Parnell and Eddie over the years and, moreso, in the known fact that Eddie had encouraged P.R. to contest the East Kinsgtown seat in 1984 before himself taking the plunge. Both men formally started their political as-

ociation at the Market Square in May 1969, and they ended it on December 1986 at the same spot shortly after Eddie had passed back the microphone to Chairman P.R. following a most stirring speech. They were inextricably linked, the one to the other, and the poster captures the essence of that connection.

On the other hand M.N.U. is holding that Cyp Neehall, and not P.R., projects an Eddie-like, grass-roots, image. The U.P.M. has suddenly discovered that there was indeed a good side to Eddie. And for the very first time Labourites are expressing the view that, to his credit, Eddie was a sort of odd-man-out in Mitchell's junket. Emery Robertson, who was not a signatory to the joint statement, has taken the cake: he not only described Eddie as his "confidant" but claims that Eddie's spirit is with him as he makes the rounds, with the people even commenting on their striking resemblance!

The question is not whether the dead is being used, but whether the exploitation is fair and proper or is a mere ploy mounted only to extract propaganda value. Remember Soufriere, and take warning.

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CSO: 3298/147

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

BRIEFS

UNION CALL FOR ACTION--A delegation from the National Workers Movement made an official call on new Minister of Labour Jerry Scott on Tuesday 20th January, 1987, and congratulated him on his appointment. The delegation said that the Union looked forward to working with the Minister "in the interest of total development of St Vincent and the Grenadines." The NWM representatives pointed out that in order to accomplish this meaningful relationship the following actions by Government were necessary: (1) Ratification of the relevant I.L.O. Convention, (2) Amendment to the Protection of Employment Act No 16 of 1980, (3) the Speed-up of the process on the wages council, and (4) Compulsory Recognition of Trade Unions. [Text] [Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 23 Jan 87 p 1] /9274

CSO: 3298/147

VENEZUELAN ROLE IN MARKETING BY LOCAL FISHERMEN CITED

Treaty Violations

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 15 Feb 87 p 2

[Text]

A NEW director of the National Fisheries Co. Ltd. said yesterday it was against the terms of the Trinidad and Tobago-Venezuela Fishing Treaty for the Venezuelan National Guard to force fishermen to sell all their catch to Venezuelan processing firms.

Basdeo Manmohansingh, a St Patrick County Councillor, was responding to reports that the Venezuelan National Guards had rounded up 13 boats and ordered the fishermen to sell their catch to Venezuelan buyers. He said this was a violation of the treaty, and should be stopped immediately. Manmohansingh

said the treaty allowed 50 per cent of the catch to be sold in Venezuela. He said any Venezuelan company wanting to do business with local fishermen should be compelled to post a bond with their government in the event that there was a default in payment.

He welcomed recent moves by a Venezuelan firm to guarantee three boats in the fishing zone to provide ice free of charge to shrimpers. He was concerned about the security at the Cedros fishing complex, which handles large sums of money to pay fishermen for catches sold to Inversiones Rebedo C.A., under an agreement to be signed shortly.

Market Guarantee

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 16 Feb 87 p 3

[Text] CEDROS/ICACOS

fishermen will soon have a guaranteed market for at least half their shrimping catch, according to an agreement reached between the Cedros/Icacos Fishing Cooperative and a Venezuelan company.

Cooperative chairman Cyril Rogers, former Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives and M.P. for Point Fortin, said last week a contract would be signed with Inversiones Robedu C.A. early next week to formalise the agreement.

He added that the agreement would not violate the current fishing treaty since provisions had been made for such an enterprise both

in this country and Venezuela.

The contract will come into effect immediately on being signed.

Safeguards have been inserted into the agreement to ensure fishermen are not be cheated.

According to Rogers, the firm will deposit an agreed sum of money with the cooperative and fishermen will be paid from this on presentation of invoices issued at the purchasing point. Said Rogers: "In this way, fishermen will be

guaranteed payment in Trinidad and Tobago dollars at guaranteed prices."

Rogers said that the firm had agreed to pay \$9 a pound for large shrimp, \$3.50 a pound for medium and \$1.50 for small shrimp. Payments will be made by cheque to minimise risk and fishermen will be advised to seek payment on a weekly basis.

These matters will be handled by the cooperative's resident manager, Sumattee Persad, at Icacos. The cooperative will

be paid a commission by Inversiones Robedu C.A. for acting on behalf of the company here.

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CSO: 3298/143

FISHING RELATIONS WITH VENEZUELA SHOW STRAINS DESPITE PACT

Venezuelan Use of Force

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 24 Feb 87 p 1

[Text] Cedros/Icacos fishermen told a government Minister yesterday they were held up by Venezuelan national guardsmen in the Gulf of Paria last Sunday, taken at gunpoint to the Orinoco Delta in Venezuela and forced to barter hundreds of pounds of shrimp for dasheen.

This was told to Food Production Minister Lincoln Myers when he paid an official visit to the Icacos/Cedros Fishing Co-operative yesterday. He was accompanied by Parliamentary Secretary Eden Shand and Permanent Secretary Dr Patrick Alleyne.

Myers was told that the Venezuelan guardsmen rounded up nine boats fishing in the gulf and ordered them to the Cocoquin River. One boat was seized while eight others were released after the fishermen were forced into the involuntary barter.

The nine boats held on Sunday morning belonged to Gerald Bharat, Raymond Jules, Haniff Mohammed, John Ramdass, Teddy Ali, Gerry Dookoor and Kumar Sumair. Ali and his boat were detained at Perdernales, the report said. Yesterday Ali's father, veteran fisherman Isook Ali, travelled to Perdernales to seek the release of the boat.

Dookoor told the EXPRESS San Fernando Desk following the meeting with Myers yesterday that the Venezuelan guardsmen had been forcing fishermen over the past few months to barter their shrimp with two companies not ap-

proved by either the Venezuelan Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of External Affairs.

The two companies named were Flota Macareo, C.A. and Alfa Alimento.

According to Dookoor, around 11.30 a.m. Sunday the guardsmen rounded up the boats

and directed them to the Cocoquin River.

Dookoor produced a receipt from Flota Macareo showing that his shrimp were taken by the company for 277.5 bolivars, but no money was paid to the fishermen and they were asked to return yesterday to receive dasheen in exchange for the shrimp.

The fishermen said

that this was not fair to them, since the price quoted by the company was far below that specified in the agreement with the firms approved by both governments.

Said Dookoor: "We have no choice. The guards pushed their guns in our sides and we had to hand over the shrimp. I have this paper which is of no value. I have

spent \$200 in gas and oil and I did not even get one cent in return."

The External Affairs representative at yesterday's meeting, Dr Sealey, told the fishermen that

the action of the Venezuelan guardsmen was a clear violation of the terms of the treaty.

Dr Sealey said the matter would be raised with the Venezuelan au-

thorities in Caracas by this country's ambassador there. He said every effort would be made to have the matter investigated and corrective action taken.

Dr Sealey told the fishermen that the three companies approved to transact business with them were Comercializadora Caguina (Evelsa), Inversiones Robedo, C.A., and Cappedel, C.A.

Call for Government Action

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 25 Feb 87 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

"THIS TREATY gives Venezuela almost unlimited rights to our extensive east-west continental shelf fisheries in exchange for limited rights to exploit a very narrowly circumscribed shrimp fishery."

Thus does the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) manifesto describe the fishing treaty between Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela signed by the previous government. And the manifesto promises in the same breath: "The re-examination and renegotiation" of that treaty so that it will "be more advantageous to our own fishermen while preventing the wholesale exploitation of our fishing resources by foreign fishermen."

Minister of External Affairs Basdeo Panday may have had a lot on his plate since assuming office on December 16 but, clearly, this is one promise his Ministry will have to do something about soon.

For, contrary to expect-

tations that the last fishing treaty would have eased the perennial problem of fishing rights between both countries, the situation appears to be getting worse, not better.

The latest example is the report made to Food Production Minister Lincoln Myers when he visited the Cedros/Icacos area on Monday, only to run into a fresh barrage of complaints by fishermen over their treatment at the hands of Venezuelan national guardsmen.

The specific incident they reported, if accurate, amounts to virtual piracy. For, these fishermen complain, they were calmly fishing in the Gulf of Paria last Sunday when they were rounded up by Venezuelan national guardsmen, taken at gunpoint to the Orinoco Delta and forced to barter their shrimp catches in exchange for dasheen.

Mr Myers may have a point when he said at Icacos on Monday he was

under the impression that there are parties on both sides of the Gulf who do not quite understand the provisions of the treaty. But the treaty itself has been criticised as being far from perfect (a biology professor at the University of the West Indies has described it as a "give-away").

We are in no position to exercise our rights over the Gulf of Paria by use of force, certainly not to the extent that Venezuela, a larger and much better-armed country, is able to do. Nor, even if we were in such a position, do we believe that the resolution of issues between states should result in any resort to force.

The answer, then, must surely lie in that promise to sit down, once again, with the Venezuelan authorities and hammer out a treaty which can truly be said to be in the best inter-

ests of both parties. Under the existing treaty, the previous government also promised to upgrade its diplomatic representation, especially in those areas where the fishing problem most frequently arises.

We call on Mr Panday to review, as well, those efforts at improving diplomatic representation in Venezuela. Indeed, the incumbent Venezuelan President made history last year when he paid an official visit, the first by a Venezuela Head of State, to this country. It may well be time to organise another high-level visit so that the new Government can make its own position clear.

One thing is certain: unless we apply some vigour to the problem which the NAR manifesto promised to deal with, fishing in the Gulf is going to remain a hazardous and, increasingly, piratical business.

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CSO: 3298/155

'CHAOS' FOUND IN HOUSING; TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS URGED

Port.of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 14 Feb 87 pp 1, 2

[Text]

MINISTER of Works, Settlements and Infrastructure John Humphrey has recommended in a report to Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson that the housing section of his Ministry be dismantled and its responsibilities transferred to the National Housing Authority (NHA).

Introducing a motion to extend the provisions of the Rent Restriction Act in the House of Representatives yesterday, Humphrey decried the "chaos" and "serious irregularities" that existed

in the Housing Ministry under the People's National Movement "Mafia government."

There were 80,000 applications on record, Humphrey added, and the PNM government had continued receiving applications and handing out houses in a procedure involving parliamentary representatives, he charged.

People with incomes of over \$3,000 per month were sometimes successful in applying while people receiving \$200 per month got none. Some got houses without applying, Humphrey added, as reward for PNM campaign work. He charged that Opposition Leader Patrick Manning, working through party colleagues and public servants since the National Alliance for Reconstruction won the general election, appeared to be attempting to sabotage the work of his Ministry.

"The biggest mistake I made when I took over..." Humphrey declared, "was to believe I would get the loyalty of

those working for me."

Humphrey issued a warning to those who wished to interfere with the new Government to stay far from his Ministry or he would "deal with them."

In his report to the Prime Minister, which centred on the "invasion" of NHA housing units in La Horquetta, Malabar and elsewhere,

Humphrey said that at

the height of the crisis he had been misled by the Permanent Secretary in his Ministry about available houses, apartments and lots of land. He had only got the basic information he needed after asking the Prime Minister to conduct an inquiry.

"The information I received on the house rush leads me to believe that people in the Ministry in concert with others encouraged the seizing of unoccupied units," he continued.

"I have been told that listings of empty units were given by workers in the Ministry to those who organised the house stealing and that people were helped to identify vacant units."

At the height of the "house-stealing" crisis, he added, he had been under pressure from "people outside" as well as members of his own party to use armed members of the protective service against the "invaders."

But this, he explained, would have gone against his deepest convictions, and if forced to take this action he would have resigned.

Because of severe pressure exerted by those wanting houses and his desire to understand their frustrations, Humphrey said, he interviewed applicants for two days.

"All had one thing in common," he added, "they were promised houses by the PNM Government: none were told that no houses would ever be available to the majority of applicants, and all were kept dangling in a state of hope and dependency."

MANNING CHARGES GOVERNMENT 'WITCHHUNT' AMONG PUBLIC SERVANTS

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 10 Feb 87 p 5

[Text]

THE public service and public servants are being attacked and there is every indication that a witchhunt has begun.

This was stated by Opposition Leader and new interim political leader of the People's National Movement (PNM) Patrick Manning at the Chaguanas Convention Centre in his acceptance speech on Sunday. In a wide-ranging speech, Manning tackled what he saw as the essential weaknesses of the present government.

"There is fear and a creeping paralysis of the will in the public service today," he said. He added that never in the history of this country, neither under the colonial administration, nor under the 30 years of PNM Government, "has any Speaker of the House of Representatives got up in a public forum and vehemently and wickedly attacked workers in any public utility in the way which we have witnessed."

He said that under the present government there were "sectional and divided loyalties, differing and at times conflicting ideologies," all of which were a recipe for trouble.

Manning said under the PNM's political innovativeness, the backbenchers were free from adopting the party line in terms of their presentation even though they voted according to the dictates of the party.

Manning argued that

the democratic principle was being threatened and the collective bargaining process was being disrespected by the Government.

Manning charged that the law was being violated with impunity and people's right to the security, safety and privacy of their homes was being trampled upon. He referred to the recent house-snatching incidents in housing estates in east Trinidad.

"The Government indicated that it would subscribe to the rule of law, recognising the fact that the law was infringed. Recent evidence suggests that the tenancy of these illegal occupants are being regularised."

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CSO: 3298/143

PNM GOVERNMENT ACCUSED OF CORRUPTION: INQUIRY STALLS

Charges in House

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 21 Feb 87 p 1

[Text]

GOLFING weekends in Atlanta and the purchase of used winning tickets from race meetings to prove false earnings were among a host of "corrupt practices" named in the House of Representatives yesterday.

Energy Minister Kelvin Ramnath also told members of the affairs of PLIPDECO and ISCOTT, the DC-9 and Lockheed "scandals," John O'Halloran and the Sam P. Wallace affair. Ramnath levelled those charges against the former government when debate on the Integrity Commission Bill began in the House.

The bill was introduced by Attorney-General Selwyn Richardson and provoked supportive comment from a number of speakers on the government benches.

Ramnath, supporting the bill, declared that the former PNM government had "conspired" against the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee (PAEC) of Parliament, headed by Present Food Production Minister Lincoln Myers, by taking the unprecedented step of filing a writ to prevent the PAEC inquiring into the affairs of PLIPDECO.

The committee, he explained, was interested in a deal between PLIPDECO and a \$2 U.S.-based company.

The filing of the writ was a "serious threat to democracy, as the Member for Port of Spain East would put it," he stressed, "and now we have taken over they talk about us destroying the democratic process."

He also mentioned the \$127-million job to construct housing at Embacadero. Powder Magazine and Oxford and Charlotte Streets, mentioned by Works Minister John Humphrey in the Senate this week, where there was no contract at all.

He maintained that the same person given that job had received contracts to build houses at Point Lisas, facilities at Penal and other jobs.

In the original tender for factory shells at Point Lisas, Ramnath pointed out, citing evidence he said was found by the Government since the election, there was a requirement for the use of steel, but this had been changed to allow an Atlanta-based company to build with aluminium.

Involved in some of these deals were the companies Estane and Fairways Diversified. Fairways was importing doors, toilets and other fittings, using an identical bid to Estane's, after a warning from the former State Enterprises Minister to avoid deals with Estane.

Investigation Delay

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 23 Feb 87 p 35

[Text]

A GOVERNMENT-appointed commission of inquiry into several projects initiated by the previous government has not yet got off the ground. The reason? Proposed head of the commission Independent Senator Allan Alexander said yesterday he had not yet received the legal instrument appointing him.

Attorney-General Selwyn Richardson told the EXPRESS last week that the necessary legal

provisions would be implemented within three weeks.

Announcement of the setting up of the commission came as the Budget debate wound up in the House of Representatives on Monday, January 26.

Prime Minister ANR Robinson said then that Senator Alexander would chair the commission and its members would include British jurist Louis Blom-Cooper QC, former Guyana Chancellor J.O.F. Haynes, a Scotland Yard official not below the rank of superintendent, as well as three local police officers.

Specific areas of concern for the commission are to be negotiations for the purchase of DC-9 aircraft by BWIA, negotiations concerning the government's partnership in Trinidad Tesoro, the Caroni Racing Complex, Plipdeco, Iscott, the Mount Hope Medical Sciences Complex, the importation of narcotics and firearms as well as prostitution and the granting of work permits to foreign women.

The parliamentary opposition has supported this move and asked whether the refurbishing of the the Chaguaramas Convention Centre, the Hall of Justice and King George V Park might be added to this list.

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CSO: 3298/155

PNM CHAIRMAN PREVATT, ATTORNEY OSBORNE CHARLES RESIGN

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 19 Feb 87 p 1

[Text]

PEOPLE'S National Movement (PNM) chairman, Francis Prevatt, has resigned. Making the announcement yesterday was the party's interim political leader, Patrick Manning, who said Prevatt had resigned "with immediate effect." Manning said that the reason advanced for Prevatt's resignation was ill health and the matter would be discussed at the party's general council meeting at Balisier House, Port of Spain, on Sunday.

Prevatt had written in the letter of resignation that because of his ill health "and in view of the present circumstances in which the party finds itself," he had to resign as chairman. He said he was confident the party had the capacity and the resources to regain the confidence of the people.

According to Prevatt, he is willing to continue to contribute to the promotion of the welfare and progress of the PNM in spite of his retirement.

Prevatt is in the United States where he is said to be seeking medical treatment.

Quitting the PNM on Monday was attorney-at-law Osbourne Charles who resigned in the light of what he termed "the ability of the majority of the present membership to acknowledge and recognise their role in assuming the position of a true alternative."

He said in his letter to the party's general secretary that he had been "flabbergasted by the lack of forthrightness of the party's opposition in the House of Representatives, and the inability of the leadership to confront the issues at hand."

In addition, Charles, who was unsuccessfully screened by the party to contest the Laventille seat in the 1986 general election, said he had found it difficult to ap-

preciate the role of the chairman at the last PNM convention, "when the floor was inspired to give to Mr George Chambers (albeit in his now pronounced absence) a standing ovation."

"In addition to this," Charles declared, "I am yet to comprehend the irregularities in voting at the said convention, without an official word."

PNM RESIGNATIONS CAUSE 'SOME CONSTERNATION'

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 23 Feb 87 p 1

[Text] Two People's National Movement (PNM) county councillors and a former Mayor of Port of Spain and Deputy President of the Senate have tendered their resignations from the party.

This was disclosed at the party's regular general council meeting at its Baliser House headquarters yesterday.

A report from the central executive, presented at the meeting, stated that St George West County Councillors Devanand Shridath and Francis Romany, and former Port of Spain Mayor and Deputy President of the Senate J. Hamilton Holder had resigned.

Romany, in his letter, said his supporters had advised him that since he had supported the National Alliance for Reconstruction candidates for the Diego Martin East and Central constituencies, he should resign.

Holder said that since 1981 he had received no proper recognition for his services to the party and that in the light of the present circumstances, he had decided to resign.

It was also disclosed that Francis Prevatt, former party chairman, had intended that his letter of resignation be read at the special convention on February 8.

Political Leader Patrick Manning informed the general council that Prevatt, who had spoken to him by telephone, had wanted his letter of resignation, dated February 4, to be read at the convention.

This caused some consternation among members of the general council since, they argued, the chairman, who had served the party for 15 years, would have been saved the embarrassment of having a call made for his resignation at the convention.

The call for Prevatt's resignation was made by the Diego Martin East constituency and was widely supported.

A discussion arose on the time lapse between when the letter was written and when the announcement came. General secretary Alvan Quamina came under fire, since his is the duty of receiving all correspondence.

Former Minister of National Security Overand Padmore has been appointed to investigate the matter with the aim of determining when the letter was delivered, by whom and to whom.

The general council also decided to write Prevatt, expressing its thanks for the years of service he had given.

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BUDGET, COLA SUSPENSION TARGETS OF FURTHER CRITICISM

COLA Stop-Notices

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 15 Feb 87 p 3

[Text]

PAYMENT of Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) and merit increases has ceased, effective this month.

A circular to that effect was issued and sent to all ministries, permanent secretaries and heads of departments on Wednesday, stating that effective from this month, the payment of COLA and merit increases to both monthly and daily-paid employees of central government, statutory boards and similar agencies, would be suspended "until further notice."

Public Services Association (PSA) president, Dr Kenrick Rennie, criticised the move saying he was both disappointed and dismayed with the issuing of the circular. In a statement to the press yesterday, Dr Rennie said, "it is passing strange," that a directive was issued, suspend-

ing payment before discussions had been concluded.

He added that the PSA maintained its position that, "the legitimate income of public servants and other workers must not be adjusted except in the exercising of the collective bargaining process." He said the circular purported to exclude several categories of public officers from the suspension measure and was therefore, "a continuation of the uneven distribution of the burden of adjustment and sacrifice, which has been taking place over the past five years."

Rennie said the PSA was calling on Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson to withdraw the circular and to continue the payment of COLA and increments, pending the conclusion of discussions and the arrival of a mutually acceptable agreement.

Union Official's Views

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 16 Feb 87 p 31

[Text]

THE WORKERS of the country are the ones who will suffer because of a national budget which had not been carefully thought through.

This was the view of trade unionist and Committee for Labour Solidarity (CLS) Executive Member David Abdulah

during his contribution to a panel discussion on the provisions of the 1987 budget. The discussion took place last Wednesday at the Communication Workers' Union (CWU) Hall and was organised by the CLS.

According to Abdulah, measures such as the unification of the ex-

change rate, the imposition of the National Recovery Impost and the suspension of the Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) in the public service would adversely affect the working population.

He said the unification of the rate would impact on farmers who relied heavily on imported equipment and chemicals, adding that the higher production costs would lead to higher prices and as a result increased prices. The resulting reduction in local food production, Abdulah said, would end in the "marginalisation of farmers."

Referring to the es-

tablishment of the National Recovery Impost, the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU) Education and Research Officer said that while most of the income would come from oil companies, the added burden on state-owned companies such as Trintoc and Trintopec would result in a cutback in oil exploration. He added that such a cutback would have a negative effect on income from oil.

Abdulah said the "burden of adjustment" was being shifted on the backs of "little people" who, he added, had contributed more to the tax revenue of the country than any other sector. He said such an occurrence had an impact on the political question of mobilising people in the direction of saving the economy. "The people have to be involved in the decision-making process," he added.

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CSO: 3298/143

OIL-WELL BLOWOUT BRINGS CLAIMS, THREATENS HEALTH

Government Probe

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 14 Feb 87 p 2

[Text]

TRINIDAD and Tobago Oil Company has received 55 compensation claims to date since the blow-out of an oil well at Barrackpore.

This was revealed by Energy Minister Kelvin Ramnath in the House of Representatives yesterday. Ramnath was at the time responding to several queries made by Opposition Leader Pa-

trick Manning, as well as a statement made by MP for Naparima Richmond Pallackdharrysingh on the blow-out.

Ramnath said his investigators reported that some 100 hectares of land were polluted as a result of the blow out and that TRINTOC had received 55 compensation claims. These claims, he said, are now being assessed by the

lands and legal department at TRINTOC.

The blow-up of the oil well at Barrackpore was caused by a failure of equipment, he said, though why it failed was still being investigated. He said investigations showed that 250 barrels of oil had been spewed. He said the investigators were not aware of any fire, adding it was not the normal kind of blow-out.

He said that he knew what it was like to be in such a volatile situation since during his visits he saw damaged chickens and ducks and that children could not walk on some of the roads.

Pallackdharrysingh in his statement said he visited the area and saw the extent of damage which had been done to livestock and which had implications for the balance of ecology.

He said Naparima was a very neglected constituency and that the people feared for their life and safety. He said there were landslides in half the roads and oil spills in the other half.

Health Risks

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 15 Feb 87 p 1

[Article by Harry Partap]

[Text]

OVER one hundred victims of toxic fumes from an oil well explosion may have to be evacuated today.

The victims of Wednesday's Trintoc oil well explosion at Jaipaulsingh Road,

near Princes 'Town, poured down the drains thousands of gallons of stored water which had been contaminated by the escaped crude oil.

They did so on the advice of Trintoc. Ponds and water courses in the district have been barred from use because of the contamination level. And since Wednesday, the residents, who live some 50 metres from the oil well and have no pipe-borne water supply, have received no truck-borne water.

Naparima Member of Parliament, Raymond Pallackdharysingh, visited the distressed families yesterday and said he was satisfied that unless emergency water supplies were brought into the area, they would have to be moved out. Promises from the Water and Sewerage Authority to bring in water, he said, had not yet been fulfilled.

Last Wednesday, Well No. 526 belonging to the Trinidad and Tobago Oil Co (Trintoc) exploded at Jaipaulsingh Road, Lengua, spewing thousands of barrels of oil over a three-mile radius. The well was in the re-completion stage when the incident occurred. It

was three hours before the well was brought under control and the escaping crude oil did extensive damage to crops, livestock and houses.

One pregnant woman, Sheriba Ramroop, 25, was up to yesterday, still being treated at the San Fernando General Hospital after inhaling toxic fumes. Pallackdharysingh said farmers had started taking their remaining livestock out of the immediate area of the explosion.

According to Pallackdharysingh, some residents still believed it unsafe to have open flames in their homes. As a result, many of the families have been receiving prepared food from relatives, living outside of the oil polluted areas. Pallackdharysingh said landslips in the area may have been responsible for problems encountered in completing mopping up operations, and water distribution woes. He said victims of the oil pollution were still assessing claims for compensation and these would shortly be submitted.

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CSO: 3298/143

PAPER CITES DISSENSION IN ARMY; RESIGNATIONS THREATENED

Curepe THE BOMB in English 30 Jan 87 p 21

[Text]

TWO HIGH-RANKING officers in the army have resigned from their posts and other lower-rank officers are planning to send in their resignations if Commodore Mervyn Williams does not quit.

The two officers, Colonel David Dopwell and Major Dereck, resigned in disgust over the way Commodore Williams is running the army and treating the officers.

Our source said, the two officers resigned last Thursday when they could not tolerate how Williams was seeing the deplorable conditions of the dormitories and not doing anything about it.

Williams did not want to take the blame for anything that goes wrong in the Defence Force, even though he is the military high commander.

"He tried to put the blame on another person, and would not accept the blame

for allowing the army to run 'helter skelter' when as the man in authority, he can do something about it," said a soldier.

Another problem which cropped up recently in the army and which has officers disgruntled is the three-year study leave which was given to 62-year-old Colonel Luke.

Commodore Williams is intent on sending Luke and his entire family to Sweden and this will be costing taxpayers a massive \$50,000 per year to house, feed and entertain Luke and family.

"His study leave is for three years, and when he comes back home he will only be giving one month service to the army, then his retirement age will be up.

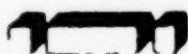
"There are other officers who should be sent on study leave and who will serve this country much

better," said the soldier.

"Men like Commodore Williams and Colonel Luke should make way for the young and vibrant officers who are willing to up-grade the army," said the source.

In the Defence Force, there's a fleet of 150 vehicles, but during the National Clean Up campaign, only two dump trucks were sent to assist in the cleaning up, because the other vehicles were down as a result of missing parts.

In short, Commodore Williams is window dressing the Defence Force, and not allowing the public to get an inside view of the problems in the army.



Another problem which is causing grumblings from the army and coast guard, is that officers past the retirement age of 65 are still

being allowed to collect a fat salary every month for sitting on their fat asses and twiddling their thumbs.

These oldsters are not making way for other officers to go up the rank, and because the old jokers are not clearing the room at the top, young men 'dying' to get into the Defence Force are always being told 'no vacancy'.

Commodore Mervyn Williams has two sons in the Coast Guard and both are sub lieutenants, and they are expected to move up the rank pretty soon, by-passing other officers who are very competent and more efficient than Williams' two sons.

Our source said one of Williams' sons was sent to the USA for training and when he took the exams he failed.

This same son, said the source, also went to UWI to study engineering and also

failed his exam.

Any lame-brain person can guess how Williams' sons were made sub-lieutenants.

The BOMB knows that officers in the Defence Force would like to come out in the open and talk about the arse-ness that goes on in the coast guard and army, but the Defence Force Act Ordinance is preventing them from opening their mouths.

This Act prevents a member of the Defence Force from revealing the operations (whether good or bad) in the Force and if a member is in contempt of this Act, he will be court-martialled.

If a member of the Defence Force leaves the army, this Act also prevents the ex-member from talking about the operations in the Force for three years.

One wonders whether the new Minister of National Security, Herbert Atwell is aware of the problems facing the Defence Force.

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BRIEFS

GUYANA DEBT.--Guyana may be paying back its \$400 million debt to Trinidad and Tobago in Timber. This possibility is being discussed by Minister of Works, Settlements and Infrastructure John Humphrey and President of the Guyana Manufacturers Association and head of the President's Advisory Council of the private sector, Brian Gittens. Gittens has been holding talks with various ministers--namely Humphrey, Minister of Industry and Enterprise Ken Gordon and Minister of Food Production, Marine Exploitation and Forestry Lincoln Myers. Humphrey said that once his Ministry's settlement thrust started, building would increase. He added that Guyana's ability to produce "kit" houses and varying timber sizes could facilitate this thrust. Pointing out that Trinidad and Tobago used valuable foreign exchange (approximately \$140 million) in the importation of timber from North America, he said this could be imported from Guyana. [Text] [Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 17 Feb 87 p 1] /9274

LOAN FROM JAPAN--Port-of-Spain, 19 Feb (CANA)--Trinidad and Tobago is seeking to borrow the equivalent of TT225 million dollars on the Japanese market, it was officially announced here today. Junior Finance Minister Trevor Sudama leaves here this Saturday [21 February] for Japan at the head of a four-man team which will sign the agreement. The private placement agreement--the sixth of its kind--allowing the equivalent of some ten billion Japanese yen to be raised--will be signed next Wednesday. During their 21 February to 2 March visit, the Trinidadians are also expected to look at trade and investment opportunities in Japan. Also in the team, approved at today's regular meeting of cabinet, are Dr Terrence Farrell, head of Central Bank's Research Department, and two officials of the Finance and the Economy Ministry. [Excerpt] [Bridgetown CANA in English 2210 GMT 19 Feb 87 FL] /9274

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